

### "OVERFLOWN WITH A FLOOD."

Since the sun went down on Friday, the tragedy of Holmfirth has been re-produced on an enlarged scale in the neighborhood of Sheffield. A Yorkshire valley has indeed been converted into a vale of tears, and the homes of industrious multitudes have been swept away as completely as the dwellings of the ancients referred to by the Temanite—"which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflowed with a flood." Who that strolled along the sides of the Loxley and Stan-nington Hills a few days ago, and marked the placid and picturesque appearance of the huge artificial lake, could have conceived that these quiet waters were destined shortly to devastate the smiling valley beneath, and to emulate the horrors of the primeval Deluge?

The hills formed two sides of a triangle, the base of which was supplied by an immense artificial mound, forty feet thick, more than eighty feet high, and three hundred yards long. An area of seventy-six acres was thus enclosed, capable of holding one hundred and fourteen millions of cubic feet of water. At the time of the catastrophe it was not quite full. Estimating the contents on Friday night as equal to 100 millions of cubic feet, we have a quantity exceeding 600 millions of gallons. Our standard for the imperial pound avoirdupois is obtained from the gallon of water, which is known to weigh ten pounds. Hence 6,000 millions of pounds may represent the dead weight of the water in the Bradford reservoir at the time to which we now refer. Even with these enormous figures before him the uninitiated reader would scarcely conceive the prodigious pressure which was every moment bearing against the gigantic dyke, which alone held back the artificial flood from deluging the adjacent valley. To add to the peril the winds blew fiercely, and dashed the imprisoned waters against the dam, which thus had to bear more than the simple pressure due to the immense weight of the water. The reservoir stood at the head of a deep gorge, spreading downwards towards the populous town of Sheffield, and thickly dotted with factories, forges, and dwellings. Thousands of the adjacent population, lay down to sleep that night in as much peril as if Vesuvius itself had formed one of the Pennine range, and was ready to burst into one of its wildest eruptions.

Was there no indication of the impending catastrophe? It is not customary to Providence to allow its creatures to be slain without a note of warning. A portentous hush preceded the earthquake. The little cloud is the herald of the approaching storm. In the infancy of science Heaven often interposed to warn mankind by revelation. The voice of the prophet was heard for many years before the foundation of the great deep were broken up and the windows of Heaven were opened. Angels came to Sodom on the evening before that terrible sunrise, when the blue heavens rained fire. The handwriting appeared on the wall of the Chaldean palace, before the army of the Persian entered. The ancient superstition of omens was not without a substratum of truth, however deeply overlaid with folly and fraud. In modern times, when miracles cease, nature is made to speak, and the falling quick-silver tells us of storms and tempest as surely as an angel-voice from heaven. Was there no warning, then, in the valley of Sheffield on Friday night? A whisper went forth that all was not right. At dusk there came friendly messages to many a cottage door, saying that the dam was not sound. Hundreds were thus warned in time, and by a prudent retreat secured their lives. Late in the afternoon a young farmer, going to fodder his cattle, saw an ugly crack in the centre of the embankment. The "letting out of water" has been a proverb of peril of ages. The young agriculturist expressed his fears to one of the officials. Workmen were hastily fetched, and measures were at once improvised to prevent any outbreak of the waters. Shortly before midnight the workmen on the embankment finished the task assigned to them; but efforts were still made by another party to lower the depth of water in the reservoir by drawing off as much as was practicable into another channel. Preparations were made for blowing up a weir, so as to make another outlet for the flood. A body of navies were drilling holes in a rock for this purpose, when it is said there came a furious gust of wind, shaking the cottage of a laborer on the margin of the dam. The man's wife looked apprehensively out of the windows, and saw the foaming flood leaping through the earthy barrier, while a terrific and confused roar, like the din of the heaviest thunder, made known that the giant flood was hastening to its work of death.

Flight was now all but impossible, even had the imperilled multitudes been prepared for it. As it was, the doomed ones were asleep. Quietly they lay themselves down to rest; terrible was their awakening. A farmhouse, with all its occupants, was swept away at a blow; not a vestige of the homestead was suffered to remain; even the cows, 14 in number, perished. Desolation could not be more complete. In one place a whole wood disappeared! Trees, haystacks, cattle, wrecks of houses, implements of husbandry—men, women, children—all went whirling down in one tumultuous torrent! Away went the dark waters, hurrying every obstacle with them. The roar was heard far off by wakeful ears; but what could it mean? It was a dreadful sound; but who could tell its significance? On went the flood, tearing away houses with their foundations. Whole rows of cottages disappeared, and left not so much as "wreck

behind." An entire village was either swept away or laid in ruins. In some cases—probably lying nearer the margin of the flood—life was spared. Some there were who, being aroused by the strange commotion, found their retreat cut off from below, and with frantic efforts broke through the roofs, where they shivered and trembled in the cold night wind until succor came or the wild flood subsided. The very gardens of the cottagers were swept away or buried in mud. At Neepsend the little plots thus destroyed are said to have covered 900 acres. From the reservoir to Sheffield was a distance of six miles, and fearful was the havoc along this route. The sentinel at the barracks nearly experienced the fate of the guard at Pompeii. As he paced near the outer wall the roar of the flood broke upon his ear; in a few seconds he was battling for his life amidst mud and water, and, despite the alarm which he raised, two children were drowned in the barracks, while their parents were dragged out seemingly half dead. At Sheffield itself the sound of the torrent was heard at about a quarter-past twelve. At first there seems to have been a hissing kind of noise, then a loud, long, terrible roar, and the flood burst in on the lower parts of the town, demolishing bridges and swelling the stream of the Don with the accumulated waters, thickly strewn with the debris of that woeful ruin which transpired above. A considerable part of the town was inundated, some lives appear to have been lost, and a sad destruction of property is reported among tradesmen and others. At day-break the calamity became more distinctly known, and the fearful sacrifice of life in the upper part of the valley became the subject of rapid rumors mingled with deep commiseration. The swollen river also told its tale in the wreck of property and the frequent corpses which went floating by on the turbid stream. Far down the river the inundation spread, and the destruction of growing crops will help to swell the total loss consequent on this heart-rending visitation.

It is a poor and heartless philosophy which can look on this sea of ruin, and talk of it as an awful retribution and a chastisement for the blundering and shortcomings of human art. What had the poor sufferers to do with the imperfect workmanship or defective management of the Bradford Reservoir? The engineers escaped, and death came on those who were irresponsible. If there has been blundering and shortcoming anywhere, these offences are to be proved by evidence and properly visited—not by the laws of nature—but by the laws and institutions of society. Fault of some kind we fear there must have been, either in the mechanical construction of the reservoir, or in the precautions proper to such a magazine of power.—[London Standard, March 15.]

Accounts from Sheffield of later date state that 178 bodies have been recovered, but 258 persons are returned as dead or missing, and consequently there are 80 bodies which have been washed down the stream, and will probably not be recovered till after the lapse of many days.

[From the National Intelligencer.]

### A CALM REVIEW OF OUR SITUATION.

In the midst of the martial sights and sounds which engage the attention of all eyes and ears, there are perhaps but few who pause to consider in all their relations the elements of the great strife which is now rending the nation. And among those who essay a calm and philosophical analyses of these elements, there is a wide diversity of opinion, both as to the nature and combination of the agencies which have set this people at variance, and as to the influences which can alone bring repose to the land.

The most fundamental point of difference in this regard arises in the matter of slavery, considered as the determining element in which the war originated, as it is certainly that which has given to the war the direction it has finally taken, and the complexion it has finally assumed. The belligerent issue which was originally joined, for the defence of political principles embodied, and the attainment of political ends defined by the Constitution and the laws, has come to be complicated in the public mind with policies and theories of a social reform, which look not so much to a restoration of the Union as to a reconstruction of society at the South, or which look to the restoration of the Union only as the same shall be conditioned on the destruction of slavery.

In this way it has come to pass that the war, which was originally political in its avowed objects, has assumed in the eyes of many the character of a war of pure ideas, in which motives of universal philanthropy and humanity have taken the place of those definite obligations which restrain as well as prompt the actions of men in the figure of civil society. Considerations of constitutional law, heretofore held to mark and define the limits of political action as distinct from the sphere of moral or social reform, have ceased to be held of binding force under the pressure of revolutionary ideas, which contemplate not only a defensive war against armed insurgents, but also an aggressive war against the domestic institution of slavery as it exists in the loyal slaveholding and in the insurgent States.

For those who take this view of the war are not more determined on the extinction of slavery in Arkansas or Louisiana than in Maryland or Kentucky, and their processes to this end in the former States, equally with the

latter, are made part and parcel of the military policy of the nation—The President's scheme of emancipation with compensation to loyal owners having been postponed by his political friends for that which looks to the bloody extermination of slavery in some States and its destruction in others by the attrition of military force acting upon it directly, as in Maryland, or, more indirectly, as in Kentucky. The men who espouse this theory of war are for the Union only on condition that slavery shall be everywhere and immediately abolished.

To the advocates of this theory the upholders of the Constitution and all "unconditional Union men" are in necessary opposition. This opposition does not necessarily grow at all out of any "love for slavery," though President Lincoln has recorded his opinion that a man may be for the Union, but not without slavery, and yet be a good Union man—a proposition which does not comport with our idea of an unconditional friend of the Union. As we understand the matter, a true friend of the Union conditions his support of the Constitution, and of the government defined by the Constitution, on no policy which looks to either the preservation or destruction of slavery as being paramount to the political duties enjoined by that Constitution. A man may fervently desire the extirpation of slavery in every State of the Union, and yet, precisely in proportion to his intelligent appreciation of this desiderated end, may be his invincible repugnance to the agencies now invoked for its forcible extermination.

They who would "theorize with bayonets and dogmatize in blood" attempt the impossible if they hope by such agencies to implant and fecundate the principles of philanthropy and freedom. They may destroy the slave system for a time by the march of our armies, but they have not eradicated slavery from its basis in the degraded condition of the slave. It is said that the slave system must be trodden down before this root of slavery can be extirpated. The reply is easy. War is not a legitimate means of social reform in the figure of the State, and will always prove more a hindrance than a help to the true reformer and genuine philanthropist. War becomes necessary and morally defensible only when it is required to repel aggressions, supported by physical force, intruding on the just prerogatives of the State.

Hence the war for the maintenance of the Constitution and of the enforcement of the laws against the encroachments of an armed sedition may be said to have been necessary and morally defensible, but it is necessary and morally defensible only as it keeps within the sanctions imposed by the Constitution and by the very nature of civil society. War for the defence of lawful government is authorized by Scripture and by the moral polity of States. But war for the correction of social evils is an anomaly which does equal violence to the sanctions of the Divine law and to the right thinking of men as rational beings.

A defensive war, waged for the preservation of the Constitution and laws, is a war which may be rightful and expedient. And in a war so waged it may be a part of the Providential necessities accompanying it that moral ends shall be subserved and social reforms precipitated by its progress. But when man deliberately steps outside of the province and sphere of his action, and rashly or blindly presumes to translate the counsels of Heaven by identifying them with bloody schemes of social renovation, he shows that he is grossly ignorant of the laws which regulate the civil polity of States and the moral government of the Universe. He then transcends his authority, and by so transcending it brings confusion on his well meant schemes and overthrow to the hopes of all.

We believe that slavery is destined to pass away from the United States and from the face of the whole earth. The institution has always and everywhere marked a transition state of society. Slavery is born of the degradation engendered by evil passions and animal appetites disqualifying for freedom. And the fearful conflict joined in our country over the matter of slavery, has sprung from antagonisms founded on equally inadequate views of this social institute. In the South there were those who, for years, bent all their zeal to the inculcations of the dogma that slavery was not only the natural and normal condition of the negro in his present moral and intellectual condition, but that this status was so beneficent and wholesome that it ought to be indefinitely perpetuated in time and extended in space.

At the North there were those who saw in this grievous estate of the African a national sin and wrong which filled their souls with pity for the slave and deep hatred for the slaveholder. These opposite passions soon lent themselves to the aspirations and strifes of political ambition on both sides, until in the end the bitterness of wrath and evil speaking has broken out in a civil war of unexampled proportions. Both sides, in their representative men, were eager for the horrid fray. They hailed it with undisguised exultations. They each sought to precipitate its bloody issue. The result is before us. But where are these things will grow before the issue of blood is stanchd no man knows. Launched as we are on a stormy sea, the sport of Titanic forces, which no man can tame or restrain, we shall drift at the mercy of the winds and waves evoked by our tempestuous passions until both sides shall learn to practice the wisdom and righteousness which exalt a nation. And if the great historian of heathenism could warn the degenerate Romans

that the gods in their justice "consulted for the punishment as well as the security of nations," shall the Christian mind of this country be insensible to the warning suggested by the righteous government of Him to whom vengeance belongeth?

### HINTS ON PAINTING.

In forming the necessary manipulations for house-painting, the priming coats for exterior work should be mixed with clear old white lead and pure linseed-oil, in about the proportion of ten pounds of white lead for every two quarts of oil. For interior painting, it is best to use with the lead boiled linseed oil exclusively, instead of raw, or a proportion of boiled and raw, as is sometimes done, with a small quantity of patent dryer ground in turpentine, which will cause the priming to set quick and form a body without dripping. For exterior second-coat work use the priming process, and add thereto sufficient white lead to make the paint quite stiff. If neutral tints are used, then estimate about two-thirds of the above proportion of lead to be added to one-half its bulk of color, and all the oil they will take.

For second coating interior work, grind the white lead in raw linseed oil to the consistency of thick paste; then reduce it with turpentine until in a proper condition to spread with the brush, using, as a general rule, an equal quantity of oil and turpentine, to complete the mixing process. The second may sometimes be made a finishing coat by the addition of a larger proportion of turpentine, and by straining the color carefully, and adding a portion of the finest French zinc, equal in proportion to half the quantity of lead used; supposing the finish to be a clear dead white. For neutral tints, the addition of the required color in the proper proportions to the white, mixed as above, for a base, is sufficient. I would not, unless in some exceptional cases, advise the use of two-coat work for completely finishing the wood work, but wish to be understood as urging the necessity of not stopping short of good three-coat work, and in some cases four and five coat-work.

In preparing the third coat, if designed for a dead white, the ingredients should be first, equal parts of the best old American white lead, and the best quality of French zinc, ground in equal parts of raw linseed oil and turpentine, as stiff as possible, and afterwards reduced with all turpentine to the proper consistency for use.

If it should be required to finish with a superior gloss, (technically termed China gloss,) then the work must receive a coat of white shellac upon the priming, and the last or third coat should be composed of three parts zinc to one of lead, ground in oil and turpentine, and reduced with the latter, and after becoming dry should have, in addition, one coat of the best white varnish, and to perfect the gloss, add still another coat.

An exceedingly beautiful white paint for interior wood work may be obtained by the following process: To one-half gallon of turpentine add twenty ounces of frankincense; place it over a fire to dissolve, after which strain and put in cans for use. To one quart of this mixture add three quarts of bleached linseed oil. To these two mixtures combined add equal parts of clear old white lead and the best French zinc, ground in turpentine. Strain them; and if too stiff, reduce with turpentine, as for other interior work. Paint prepared in this manner gives out scarcely any odor, and if well done will preserve its fine finish many years; but its great cost, compared with the commoner kinds of white paint, prevents its coming into general use.—["Artificer," in the Horticulturist.]

### THE WATCH AND JEWELRY SWINDLE.

A recent exposure by the Tribune of a swindling traffic in watches, jewelry, and prize stationery packages, has attracted much less attention than it deserves. Less from the press and public generally, and less especially, from the Legislature, on whom devolves the duty of destroying the business by legal enactment. We can imagine no valid excuse for the negligence at Albany to put the ban of the law upon a crime which has been thoroughly exposed, and repeatedly pressed upon the consideration of individual members, as well as upon the Legislature generally. Let us freshen their sense of their obligation by condensing and restating the facts.

Sundry firms, under assumed names, advertise—for the most part in the illustrated weeklies, which circulate widely in the army—hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of watches and jewelry, "to be sold for one dollar each without regard to value, and not to be paid for till you know what you are to get." Certificates of these articles are sold at 25 cents each. The purchaser of the certificate gets nothing but the certificate. He may then, if he is foolish enough to invest more money, return the certificate, and is promised on payment of a dollar, the article specified in the certificate; for instance, a "gold locket marked at \$5." Paying his dollar, he will, in fact, receive some utterly worthless piece of jewelry, or an equally worthless gold pen, or other article. Of course, nobody does business twice with one of these firms—or none except those who act as their agents; but the number of people who delight to be cheated is always large enough to make this sort of rascality permanently profitable. The perpetual presentation of the advertisements secures every week new victims.

The fraudulent nature of the business has