

ANOTHER WARNING.—We have not been without hope, ever since the beginning of the excitement now existing in such force throughout the union, occasioned by the mischievous and persevering efforts of our northern abolitionists, that they would be advised by the evidences continually presented them, in such unmistakable forms, of the general disapprobation, and as a measure of prudence at least, if not of conviction, abandon their dangerous courses. We have been willing to believe and hope that they were not altogether mad, or worse than mad; and that they would not persist in urging their experiments upon the temper of the South and the forbearance of the North, to the verge of national and individual ruin. But it seems that we have erred in our estimate of their disposition and their judgment; they will not stop in their perilous career; and worse even than this, they have now shown a disposition to resort to artifice and deception in the prosecution of their noxious designs. So long as their measures were open and apparent, we could not but give them credit for at least one honest quality—that of boldness—but the moment they lay this aside, and seek to effect by guile what they have discovered to be hostile to the wishes and feelings of their fellow-citizens, the indignation with which their course is noted becomes mingled with contempt, and the anger excited by their proceedings is justly directed against themselves.

Such an attempt has just been discovered and defeated at Philadelphia; but how many others have been made, and perhaps successfully, it is impossible to say. We give the particulars from the Philadelphia Inquirer of yesterday.

A Disclosure—Incendiary Publications Destroyed.

We learn that shortly after the arrival of the steam-boat, bringing the newspaper mails of yesterday morning, and while the laborers (white and colored) were engaged in removing the various bundles, bales and packages, received at the same time, and by the same conveyance as the mail, a large wooden box, apparently filled with dry goods, and directed to a respectable individual of this city, was accidentally forced open, when it was found to be filled with incendiary pamphlets and newspapers, such as the "LIBERATOR," "HUMAN RIGHTS," and the "SLAVE'S FRIEND," carefully put up in packages, and directed to persons in Georgia, North and South Carolina, Missouri, Alabama, Illinois, and other slave states, and to the district of Columbia. We cannot, in terms too strong, express our disapprobation—our horror at this proceeding, and especially at this particular time. It should be remembered, that the transmission of newspapers and pamphlets in the manner described, is a gross and daring violation of the laws in relation to the U. S. mail; and when we recollect the excitement so recently produced in Charleston, by a proceeding of a similar character—and when we also recollect that the whole country is in a state of agitation and apprehension, in consequence of the recent movements of the fanatics, this last mad act cannot be viewed with other feelings than those of the strongest indignation.

We have now in our possession several of the papers and pamphlets thus surreptitiously forwarded to this city. They are of the most incendiary and inflammatory character, some of them being embellished with cuts of various kinds, calculated to excite and inflame the mind of the slave,—and to poison his already embittered feelings against his master.

As soon as this discovery was made, a number of gentlemen met in consultation, as to the best method of preventing the excitement and consequent mischief there was but too much reason to apprehend, and determined, as their first step, to wait upon the individual to whom the package was directed; a committee was accordingly appointed, who immediately proceeded to discharge the duty assigned to them. The gentleman in question instantly disclaimed all knowledge of the transaction, adding that he had never sanctioned any interference with the slave question, believing such a course improper, and stating that the box had been directed to him without his knowledge or consent, made over all his right and interest therein, as the party to whom it was addressed, to the citizens of Philadelphia, to be disposed of by them in such manner as they should deem expedient.

The result is thus stated in the paper from which we quote:—

The box being thus surrendered, about a hundred of our most respectable citizens repaired to the transportation office, when Mr. Hill, the agent, promptly complied with their request. A vote was then taken as to the best mode of disposing of the box, with a view to allay the excitement, which was rapidly increasing. It was decided that it should be taken into the middle of the Delaware, and there, with its contents, destroyed. This resolution was fully carried into effect. The box was then taken on board a steam-boat,—the contents consisting of at least two thousand of the newspapers described above, were taken out, torn into ten thousand pieces, and scattered upon the waters. The whole affair was conducted in a spirit which exhibited a fixed purpose to resist every thing like the circulation of incendiarism of any description, and at the same time to avoid all improper excitement among ourselves. We believe that the course pursued was the proper course under the circumstances, and we know that it was adopted with a view to the peace and the quiet of the city, and the security of the gentleman whose misfortune it was to have, without his sanction, such a quantity of incendiary matter directed to him. We need only add, that Philadelphia is perfectly tranquil, and is likely to continue so.

We are at a loss to conceive how men professing to be guided by the principles of christianity, can reconcile it to their consciences to adopt a measure like this, especially in the present excited state of feeling on the subject. They cannot have been ignorant of the risk to which they exposed the individual whom they sought to make an unconscious agent in their schemes; and if he had come to harm, in person or property, as it is no merit of theirs that he has not, they would have been responsible, morally if not legally, for the consequences, whatever they might have been.