

D. D. Shut!

been guided by the Spirit of true greatness hinted at in the above remarks, I cannot but think he would have so disarmed his adversaries (without the use of steel or gun-powder) that the result, to him, and to the cause of Freedom, would have been far different. I am not at all confident, that ~~Mr. Clay~~ would have long suffered the free discussion of the sacred subject among them - had it been done "never so wisely," temperately, and kindly; but of one thing I am confident - that - the defiance and fierce denunciation with which Mr. Clay met the demands of the mobocrats, hastened the catastrophe, and made it what it was - it settled the question at once - in a measure shut up the avenues by which the truth might have been made to reach their hearts, and placed it beyond his power to do them any good in future.

Mr. Clay (in conversation, & business transactions) calculates very calmly upon sacrificing his life in the struggle. But I am sorry to say, I can see nothing in this, which goes beyond mere physical courage - such, for instance, as the lion manifests in self defence. I see nothing in his acts, or language which indicates the high-souled patriot, - who makes his God the dispenser of all courts, - ~~and~~ who in his name does battle for the cause of truth, and, if need be, lays down his life in its defence.

Mr. Clay rather - it appears to me - occupies
the position of a Champion who has
strenuously subdu'd, by the prowess of his single
arm [wielding the Press, or some other powerful
weapon] to achieve a victory over that foulest
emanation from the pit of darkness - Slavery -
and establish free discussion in the midst, and
in despite of, rank and rampant Despotism.

In these views, I may do Mr. Clay great in-
justice - but I give them merely as my own in-
dividual impressions, and they go for just what
they are worth. I said he had taken a
noble stand. To advocate the cause of
Truth and human Freedom, is noble. To ad-
vocate it unwisely, and fail in effecting
it - makes the cause none the less noble, or
worthy of being sustained - but only retards
its progress for a time.

I believe when you was here last
we belonged to the M.E. Church - I presume
you have heard ere this, that we left it
some 2 1/2 years since, on account of Slavery
&c. Wife & I then became thorough going
Abolitionists, joined the Wesleyans at the
first organization of a Ch. in this city, &
have so remained since. Having never
yet begun to repent of this act, we shall
probably never return. The cause is
advancing decidedly, here - the old Ch.

I think, has reached the highest
pinnacle of its greatness, - you are, I
presume aware that ~~it is~~ the subject of
Slavery, spite of all efforts to keep it
down, is rending it in pieces throughout
the country. This, I rejoice to say is more
or less the case with all the ~~the~~ large
denominations - God grant that every
pro-slavery Ch in the land may be rent
and sifted, and turned upside down
until slavery shall be all spilled
out of them.

The Methodists here are not
numerous, being of course very unpopular
and are steadily in

Dr. Olney who you will remember
was our family physician ~~did~~ finally
died - of rheumatism from which he had
suffered so much - last Spring. Mr
Chalis' family are here yet, and well. Two
of his brothers have removed to this city - one
a physician.

I intended to have confined my ideas
to one sheet, but got so interested about Parkers-
burg & Lexington, that I just let them run - and
now see where I am! However, postage is cheap.

Wife sends a great deal of respects to
you and wife and we both hope to hear from you
soon - Yours as ever
A. G. Spaulding



Geo. Shedd

Denmark

Lee Co. Iowa