

No. V.

THE following is the correspondence and paper on Duelling referred to, in the chapter on Washington, at page 277, and it is given here, partly for the purpose of showing the effects produced by it in the United States ; but also in the hope, that as a noble Peer, the Earl of Mountcashell, has at this moment, a notice before the House of Lords for a Committee to enquire into the best mode of suppressing Duelling in England, it may be productive of some good here.

(From the *New York American*, March 6, 1838.)

DUELLING.—The recent occurrence at Washington seems to have turned all minds to the consideration of some mode by which the barbarous practice of Duelling should, if possible, be prevented. In this view, and in aid of such an object—in which *all* men, whatever their private opinion or practice, outwardly concur, and in which *all* men ought in truth, in spirit, and in deed, heartily to co-operate—the following correspondence and essay have been sent to us for publication. We commend them heartily to the attention of all readers. The essay, it will be seen, was addressed by the author to the British Parliament, of which he was at the time a member. It is elaborate, able, and, occasionally, eloquent.

To J. S. BUCKINGHAM, Esq.

Washington, Feb. 27th, 1838.

My dear Sir,—On my arrival yesterday, I found this city clothed in sack-cloth and mourning. A member of Congress had been shot dead in a Duel by a brother member, and in a manner that cannot but shock the moral sense of the inhabitants of this vast Republic.

You were so kind as to send to me, previous to your leaving England, a paper on the subject of Duelling, which I perused with deep interest ; and the thought has occurred to me, that its publication at this time might be appropriate, and assist in correcting public sentiment on a most important subject. With your permission I should like to give publicity to the document.

Truly and respectfully your friend,

E. C. DELAVAN.

To E. C. DELAVAN, Esq.

Washington, Feb. 27th. 1838.

My dear Sir,—Having been myself as deeply affected by the painful occurrence of the Duel to which you allude, as any member of this sorrowing community, among whom I have so recently arrived, the first impulse of my heart was to contribute, if possible, towards the correction of the false sentiment of honour which countenances so barbarous a practice. I accordingly sought among my papers for the document to which you refer ; and as this was originally presented to the members of both houses of the British Parliament during the period in which I had the honour of being a member of that body, I thought it would not be unbecoming or disrespectful in me to offer it to the consideration of both houses of Congress, at the close of those funeral solemnities, in the midst of which one of their lamented members was about to be consigned to an untimely grave.

From your hands, however, as an American citizen, this document will be more acceptable than from mine. I therefore transmit it to you, in the hope that through your instrumentality the public press of America will