

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1874.

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The Weekly Sun.

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A musements To-day.

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The Fall of Noah Davis.

"Not fallen, no!" for regarded with literal exactness our title is a mismomer. Noan Davis has not fallen. He was long ago the same man that he is now. He has only been found out. That is all! It is his own hands, too, that have stripped off the veil of appearance which cencealed his real character; and in doing it he has seemed to act with a tupid unconsciousness that he was exposing to the public view features repulsive, hateful, detestable. He is more unfortunate than his original namesaice, who, though he had all the waters of the flood, did not sufficiently dilute his strong drink at all times to keep tober; but when he got drunk he fortunately had plous sons to walk backmard and cover him up; whereas our Noan lies fully exposed in the position where he has wilfully placed himself, an object of derision to his ensuies and of contempt rather than of pity to his former friends.

Noan Davis—the model Noan—what a figure he presents to-day!

He was a member of Congress from one of the northern districts of this State; but his seat in the House brought him listle of money and less of fame, So he resigned and got himself appointed United States District Attorney for this district, it is a high and honorable office if highly held and honorably administered. It is an office which Charles O'Conon did not think it beneath his dignity to accept, and one to which it has been deemed fitting to appoint the foremost men at the bar.

Having held this office a while, DAVIS, in a period of great, temporary public excitement, being mostly unknown to the voters of the city, was elected a Judge of the Supreme Courk. His successor as Disto be a man of learning and integrity. He is to administer his office fairly. He is sworn to support the Constitution, and is expected to understand the law. Yet we find NoAm DAVIS, while holding this office, trying secretly to extort hundreds of thousands of dollars from a merchant under a law which he immediately afterward declares to be unconstitutional! And in the same matter he told the merchant that he believed him guiltless of all fraudulent intent.

NOAH DAVIS is supposed to be thoroughly, up in the law of neglect of official duty. Was it not a neglect of his official duty as District Attorney to omit examining into the constitutionality of this law, and into the question of guilt, before he tried to exter this immense sum, a part of it for his own pocket, from the necused? And would not such a neglect of official duty be properly punished, if the State law applied, by at least a summer's residence in the salubrious air of Blackwell's Island?

And this is the same Davis who, a little while ago, with an overweening sense of his own importance, swelling like a frog by a pond at eventide almost to bursting, in a manner the most assuming, presumptuous and arrowent, was volunteering a superfluous public lecture to young men the latchet of whose shoes he was not worthy to unloce, upon professional integrity! "It is a great thing," said he," to be an able lawyer; it is a greater thing to be an honest one."

Yes, DAVIS, You were right. It is a greater thing to be an able lawyer; it is a greater thing to be an honest one. It is most unfortunate, on the other hand, for a man who is a lawyer at all, to be neither able nor honest. "Show me a great lawyer and I will point you to an honest man," said DANIEL WEISTERS; and the portrait painted of himself by DAVIS, in his testimenty before the committee of Congress, and in his correspondence with JAYNE, seems, hardly reconcilable with the possession of real ability.

It is the privilege and one of the re-wards of the greatest men, and those who have most distinguished themselves in the legal profession, to be remembered and imi-tated by the ambitious students of after generations. They serve as bright examples to stimulate the young to increased industry and exertion. The exhibition of himself which has recently been made by the subject of this article at Washington may erve a similar purpose in a different way. He who would never do as an example may answer for a warning. May not the eminent teachers in our law schools at the present day, like Washburn and Dara, and Dwight and Jaques and Davies, and Platt and Dutton, while they point their classes to Crozno for his invective; to Demostheres for his eloquence; to HARDWICKE for his breadth of thought, and equitable views; to MARSHALL and WEBSTER for their logic; to Stony for his learning-while they exhort their pupils to follow the great names in the juridical history of the past, each in the particular track which he has served to make luminous, may they not add: now young men, while it is only by re-ferring to a host of worthles that the most brilliant examples can be found of the various noble and admirable traits which you are to strive to acquire and cultivate, behold all those qualities of a lawyer which are to be shinned and abhorred ex emplified in this single individual, Noan DAVIS

a period of great, temporary public excitement, being mostly unknown to the voters of the city, was elected a Judge of the Supreme Court. His successor as Distriot Attorney had already been appointed and commissioned, but had deferred qualifying for a few days at the particular re quest of the incumbent, quest of the incumbent, when, on the 27th day of December last Davis, with the aid of an informer and several spics, made a strike upon the old importing house of PHELPS, DODGE & Co. for two hundred and sixty thousand dollars, alleged to have been forfeited by that firm in consequence of non-compliance, in some particulars, with the revenue laws. He hurried up the business and attempted to close it hastily by a secret compromise, so as to put into his own packet a percentage of the molety his own pocket a percentage of the informer. Which the law gave to the informer. Having failed in this, he proposed to his successor, Mr. Bliss, to "divide fair," half and half, share and share alike, the District Attorney's portion of the plunder. But Mr. BLISS, though entertaining no objections to oysters on the half shell, had not been brought up to divide the oyster itself, and he declined-whether even respectfully there may be a reasonable

This awoke the slumbering conscience of NOAH DAVIS. When he found he could not plunder, he at once felt sure that he could pray. If he could not share in the money he could, at least, turn and preach against the sin of abstracting it, and he quickly declared that it was a case in which no jury would render a verdict for the Government except under special direc-tion of the Court. This must be regarded as a novel and peculiar feature in this matter. The repentance and confeet The repentance and confession of a murderer, as he approaches the scaffold. is nothing uncommon; but we do not re-member a single instance of a footpad declaring his penitence and conversion the moment he missed apurse. Davis, who, just before, had been so greedy to grab Dongs's money, now came to the conclusion that the law under which Dongs's books had been selzed was unconstitutional; and he received Donez at his house, and, according to his own testimony, advised him as a brother to resist the suit to the last extremity.

Now, we do not wish to be harsh upon DAVIS, but we ask him not to tax our arcdulity too far. If he will change what he says about talking to Dongs as a brother, and say that he talked to him as

doubt.

his half-brother, we can readily believe him. Donon has generally been considered a man who pays, but Davis informs us he did not pay him. He declined a tee. This, we submit, is faint and feeble testimony. If Davis would appear as a kingly witness let him remember that brave Casas thrice declined a crown; let him be recalled, and tell us the number of times he declined the crowns offered to him. Again, how does he talk when he talks as a brother? We know how he talked when he talked to Brother Bliss, "Brother Bliss," said he, "let us pluck Dodos, and divide fair-half to you, and half to me." Now, how did he talk when he talked as a brother to Dongm? He told him he wouldn't take a fee. What did he tell him he would take? Did he tell him that having failed ignominiously in trying to serve the devil, he was now conscientiously serving the Lord? Something like that it would seem to be his wish to have us believe. It is only

he would, under certain circumstances, to

as a buzzard that he plumes his wings to sear heavenward like an cagle, The office of District Attorney is a semijudicial office. Its incumbent is presumed

when he finds that he cannot gorge himself

ou are to strive to acquire and cultivate, behold all those qualities of a lawyer which are to be shunned and abhorred exemplified in this single individual, Noan

