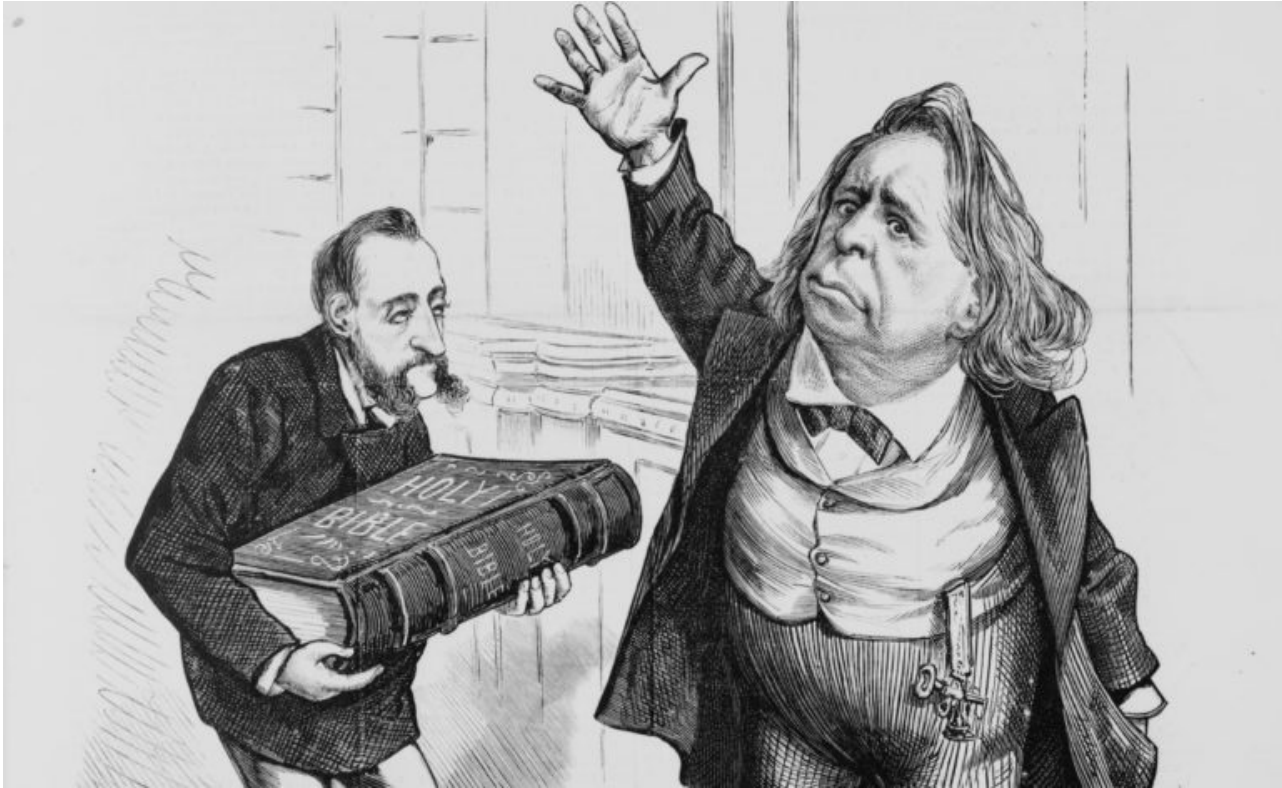


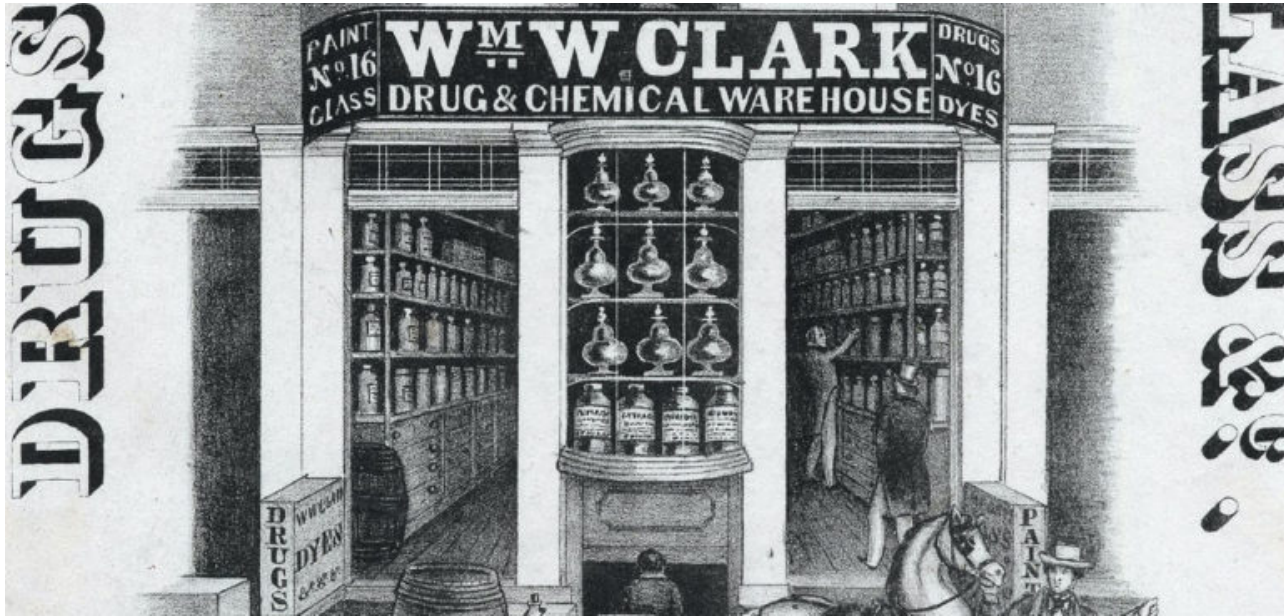
## When Forgiveness Enables Tyranny: The Unbearable Lightness of Henry Ward Beecher



From 1863 onward, Beecher was obsessed with forgiveness. The most influential preacher in the country, he aggressively agitated for the Union to extend complete forgiveness to Confederates.

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## Was Edgar Allan Poe a Habitual Opium User?



While Poe was likely using opium, the efforts to keep him quiet suggest that he was also drinking.

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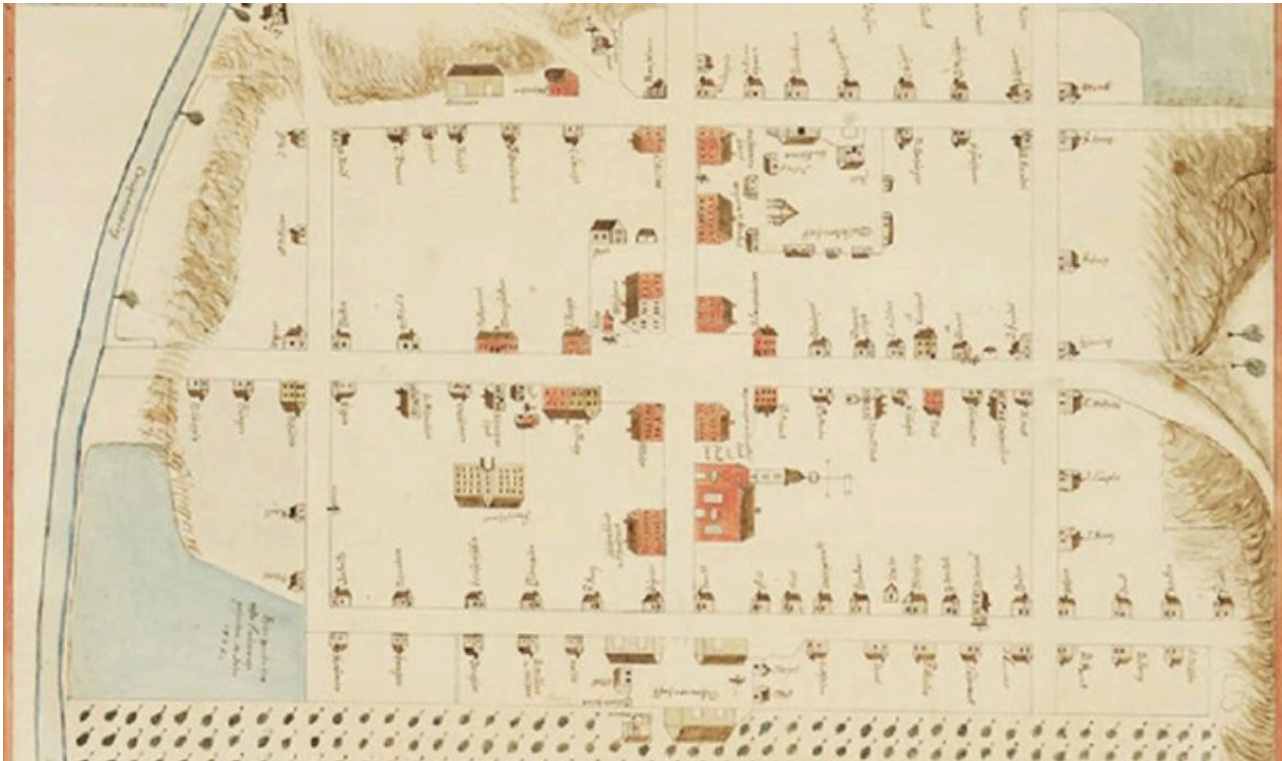
## [Commonplace Call for Submissions](#)



Article reviews are ongoing.

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## [Excerpts From "Kingdom"](#)



The poems of "Kingdom" are spirit-drawings, in the tradition of the Harmonists' erstwhile Shaker acquaintances. On occasion they quote bits of Harmonist texts.

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## Salt and Deep History in the Ohio Country





Indeed, early American salt makers exploited productive precedents established by generations of people who had engaged with salt resources for thousands of years. This deeper history of salt shaped space, relations, and power dynamics during the eighteenth century in ways both explicit and obscure.

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## **The Danger of *The Pirates Own Book***



By making pirate stories dramatic and exciting, Ellms transformed pirates from news objects and historical actors to distinctly literary characters.

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## Reparative Semantics: On Slavery and the Language of History



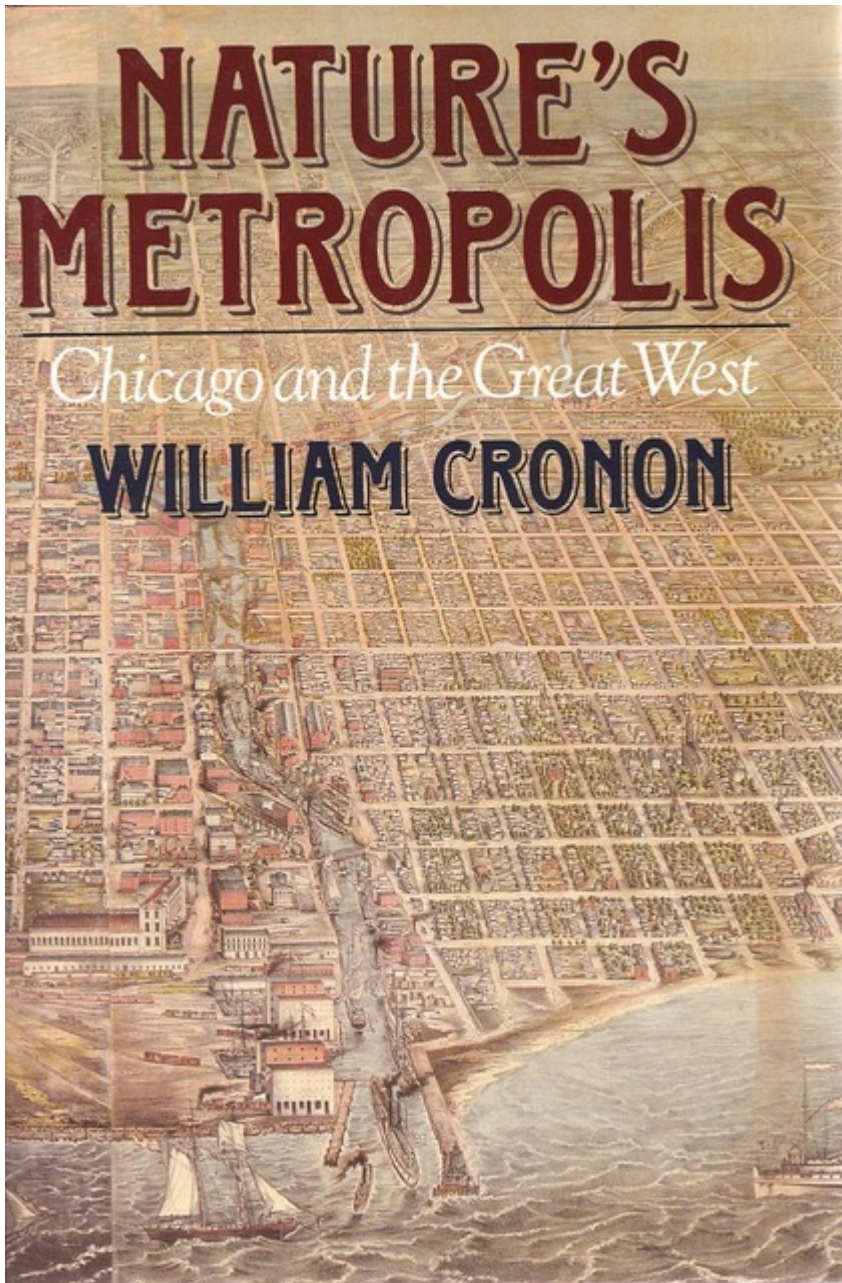
Arise! Arise! and weep no more  
dry up your tears, we shall part  
no more. Come rise we go to  
Tennessee,  
that happy shore to old Virginia  
never - never - return.

Rather than seeking to extinguish the humanity of its victims, slavery rather invests in, and relies upon, their human capacity for suffering.

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## [Nature's Metropolis at 30](#)





William Cronon presents in *Nature's Metropolis* an assertion of the fundamental interconnectedness of the city and the countryside. This is figured in the history of Chicago, primarily in the nineteenth century, as the city grew from the commodification of the produce of its rural environs.

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[Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Media](#)



## Theorist



In "Learning to Read," Harper prompts critical attention to textual materiality by depicting enslaved characters who advance their own literacy by exploiting white cultural expectations about the proper look of reading material.

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## Sullivan Ballou's Body: Battlefield Relic Hunting and the Fate of Soldiers' Remains





Confederates' quest for bones thus connects to a bizarre history of the use, and misuse, of human remains. Bones from the Bull Run battlefield were taken as acts of domination and displayed as trophies of war. However macabre, human remains became part of the deeply variegated material culture of war.