

PRESENT STATE OF THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

Being an Anti-Slavery Society, and not limiting our object to the aiding of destitute Fugitives—though that is an important part of our object—we may be expected to refer generally to the present state of the Slavery, or rather anti-slavery question. We have been observers, in common with you all, of the course of events in the neighbouring republic; now hoping, now fearing, as the balance seemed to incline to the side of righteousness and mercy, or on the contrary, to the perpetuation of grievous wrong. In many respects, our fears have been, alas! realized, rather than our hopes. Yet there is not only no cause for despair, but it may be doubted, if what, on a first view, looks so ominous of evil, be not a step onward to the realization of all we wish in a speedy destruction of slavery. It would have been but a doubtful good, if the mere question of extension of the Slave Territories had been decided in the negative, on the condition of an everlasting arrest being imposed on the agitation against Slavery as it exists. It may be better that liberty for ulterior agitation has not been compromised by a temporary triumph, more apparent than real, at the Election Polls of the United States. The events that have occurred have revealed the designs of the slave-power in a light more convincing than ever; and it is not without promise of good that the majority has been proved to be so narrow on the side of a pro-slavery policy, and the number to be so large on the side of liberty and equity. It has been demonstrated that the Free States, if only duly alive to their obligations, possess, under Divine Providence, the means to set bounds to the Slave power. And it may be that the revelations made daily of the uselessness of all concessions to slavery, may compel more decision and more unity in the efforts of real Abolitionists. It is not alone in vague mutterings and menaces, that slavery avows its will to effect a larger aggression on the domain of freedom. A revival of the slave traffic itself is boldly proposed and vindicated; and recent decisions of the highest legal tribunal in the Union have tended to unsettle

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