

foul disgrace of slavery in every shape and form shall be abolished from every corner of a rapidly christianized and civilized globe. In this connexion let me direct your attention to a remarkable instance of progression. I refer to the consecration of the Rev. Samuel Crowther, a native born African, to the high dignity of a Colonial Bishop of the United Church of England and Ireland, a man who is thus admitted as an equal among the dignitaries of the Church, and acknowledged as more than "*a man and a brother*," as a divine, a scholar, a gentleman, and a christian by that most aristocratic of all bodies, the University of Oxford, which conferred upon him, the degree of D. D., at the same time as upon the Prince of Wales, the degree of L. L. D. That these deeds and these sentiments excite opposition need not be wondered at. The pro-slavery party on this continent is as furious as ever, and as unwilling to read the signs of the times and to acknowledge the true value of their position as the West Indian planters were thirty years ago. If we are to believe recent news,* informal propositions to end the struggle, now going on between the Northern and Southern States, have been made, upon the ridiculous basis of "slavery to be continued as before the war, except where the war has freed the slaves, and their war debt to be discharged by the whole nation," and they are tragically indignant when a message addressed "to all whom it may concern" demands as preliminary conditions, "the immediate restoration of peace, the integrity of the whole union, and the abandonment of slavery." They refuse to see that slavery is already doomed, that the world stands to-day between the finding of the verdict and the execution thereof. The fiat of the Almighty has gone forth, more unchangeable than law of Medes and Persians, that man shall enslave his brother no longer, and in His own good time He will bring it to pass, He will make it good, regardless of their propositions, their remonstrances, or their indignation. It is not by the will of the North, nor by the refusal of the South, nor by the clamors of the East, nor by the murmurs of the West, that its extinction shall be consummated, but by the will of Almighty God over-ruling all their fierce passions and moulding all their stubborn wills according to His own wise purpose. That this most unchristian war is based upon slavery all allow, but the majority will not admit that it can never end till every obstacle to its complete extinction shall have been removed. The absurd demands of the informal southern ambassadors shew that this hour has not yet come.

It would lead me to far too lengthy a discussion, if I should attempt to shew why this great source of evil was ever permitted. Slavery my friends is not a thing of yesterday, though some of us may live to see its complete abolition, History itself is insufficient to trace it to its origin. It was of such remote antiquity, that when Moses, thirty-three centuries, ago gave laws to the Hebrew nation, finding it already established, he framed all his laws, to mitigate its harshness and to ameliorate in every possible way the condition of the bondman.

It remained for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to proclaim absolute liberty to the captive, recovery of sight to the blind, to bring the prisoners out of prison, and to let the oppressed go free. In this also, as in other respects, the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, but this reminds me that I must return

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