

From the *Caithness Northern Star*.

### SLAVERY AND LIBERALISM.

AMID all the unfavourable signs of the times, there is one event at least which has recently occurred, which would almost seem to warrant the hope, that the heart of our country is still sound in the main, and that good is yet in store for the British Empire. The event to which we allude is the abolition of West Indian Slavery. That a nation should of its own accord renounce the wages of unrighteousness, and voluntarily tax itself to the amount of TWENTY MILLIONS, in order to set the captive free, and repair, as far as possible, the injuries inflicted on him by a long course of degrading bondage, is an act so unlike that of a doomed and Heaven-abandoned people, that we cannot yet allow ourselves to despair of our country. But though so great a sacrifice has been made, and so noble an example set on our part, in order that justice might be done to suffering humanity, other nations, whose hand is in the same trespass, are but backward in following our footsteps. There is one land in particular, in which a system of stern and unrelenting oppression is still pursued towards the unhappy negro, and which, the more the iniquity of the system is exposed, only clings with a more desperate grasp to the accursed thing, and refuses to let it go. In that land, near TWO MILLIONS AND A HALF of human beings, with rational and immortal souls, are held in hopeless bondage. There, between 70,000 and 80,000 children, in the helplessness of infancy, are annually reduced to a level with the brutes. There females are frequently put into the scales, and sold by the pound! and in newspapers, professedly religious, you will meet with advertisements, such as the following:—"To be sold, on such a day, an excellent stock of horses, hogs, and sheep, and—*nineteen well conditioned negroes!*" In that country, the benefits of education are totally interdicted to the unhappy slaves, and in some places, the punishment of death is inflicted for the second offence of *teaching blacks in a Sabbath School*. There the ministers of religion are frequently maintained by contributions extorted from the bones and muscles of human beings; and if you ask a gang of negroes that you happen to see in a field, to whom they belong, you may be told, "*that they belong to the Congregation!*" Nay, we are assured, on authority which is unquestionable, that preachers of the gospel unblushingly engage in the odious traffic of exchanging men for horses, and women for sheep, and that in many of the church courts, from the moderator and clerk, down to the meanest officer, "*all are hardened men stealers.*" Fathers not unfrequently sell their own offspring, and the highest personage in the land has been known "to bring his children to the hammer, and thus make money of his debaucheries; and, even at death, instead of manumitting them, to leave them, soul and body, to degradation and the cartwhip."

And where, gentle reader, where is it, think you, that such enormities are still practised, and that millions of human beings are subjected to the tender mercies of the slave-driver? In some despotic monarchy, you will say, where the right divine to govern wrong is maintained and respected, where a lordly and pampered aristocracy tread with iron heel on the submissive necks of their degraded and spiritless vassals. Nay, but in America, the "land of civil and religious liberty," where, as we are told, "bigotry and persecution are unknown, where no civil disabilities attach to religion, where christian charity prevails, and where all is harmony, liberality, and love." Yes, even there, does slavery with all its attendant enormities, still prevail, and entrench itself within triple bulwarks, against every effort of mercy and philanthropy. In "*the freest Country in the world,*" those who attempt to advocate the opinions so successfully promulgated in this country, by the late distinguished Dr Thompson, without one daring to lift a

finger against him, are forthwith tarred and feathered, or torn in pieces by an infuriated rabble.

And not only are the actual slave States responsible for the continuance of slavery and its cruelties, but the whole Union is infected, with its moral pollution. "The north has universally sympathised with the south; Merchants and mechanics, Priests and politicians, have alike stood forth the defenders of southern despots," and of their inhuman tyranny. And so deep-rooted is the feeling of antipathy to the poor negro, that pervades the whole empire, that even the free man, who partakes of his colour is doomed to the most insulting and oppressive treatment. Can it be believed, that in a country, which boasts that no disabilities attach to any form of religion, however anti-scriptural and pernicious, the most galling disabilities are attached to the crime of wearing a black or colored skin? "In some parts of the Union, the free people of color, are not allowed to sit on a jury, or be received as witnesses; in others, although compelled to pay taxes, they are not allowed to vote, or to send their children to the common schools, or to learn the alphabet, under severe penalties;" and in all, they are the victims of prejudice, contempt, and insult. Even in the house of prayer, where it is, or ought to be, proclaimed, that "God has made of one blood all the nations that dwell upon the face of the earth," a line of demarcation is drawn between them and their white oppressors. In travelling through the slave States, they are in constant peril, any constable may seize them as runaway slaves, bind them with ropes and chains, throw them into prison with murderers and robbers, confine them thirty or sixty days, and if they cannot prove their freedom, sell them into bondage to pay their jail fees!"

And this is America—the country, which the whole world is called upon to admire, as the very perfection of freedom and felicity; a country, which, with the one hand signs the charter of its independence, proclaiming on its front that "*all men are born free,*" and at the same time, with the other, wreathes the iron bonds of perpetual slavery round the necks of near two millions and a half of its population! Who that has a heart or the common feelings of humanity, does not turn from such a spectacle with loathing and indignation, and bless God that he is not at the mercy of republican liberalism? No wonder that Thompson, the anti-slavery lecturer, should exclaim, when about to flee from America for his life, "If I must be a slave, if my lips must wear a padlock, if I must crouch and crawl—let it be before a hereditary tyrant—let me see around me the symbols of royalty—the bayonets of a standing army—the frowning battlements of a baatle. Let me know what is the sovereign pleasure and will of the one man, I am taught to fear and serve—let me not see my rights, and property, and liberties, scattered to the same breeze that floats the flag of freedom, let me not be sacrificed to the demon of despotism, while laying hold on the horns of the altar dedicated to LIBERTY AND EQUALITY."

### FOREIGN.

**THE COUNT DE SURVILLIERS.**—The *Courier de Etats Unis* of Saturday morning gives the following extract of a letter written by Joseph Bonaparte on the 29 of September to a friend in the city.

"My sister is now in Paris, but she has rejected all advances made to her. Do not believe a word of the story put forth in the Paris journals, about my voyage to Corsica, under the permission of Louis Philippe. All these paragraphs respecting my family are miserable inventions. You will see me in New York sooner than in Corsica, or in any other part of France, so long as a Bourbon sits upon the throne."

**Mexico.**—The population of the Mexican States consists of about 9,000,000 of freemen. Of these about 4,000,000 are unmixed Indians; 2,500,000 are Mestizos, or the mixed offspring of Spaniards and Indians; 1,500,000 are Creoles, or the unmixed offspring of Spaniards; 1,000,000 are Washinagoes, or offspring of Indians and Negroes, including also the Mulattoes; 100,000 are Negroes; 10,000 Spaniards, born in Spain, and about 30,000 strangers, consists of emigrants from various nations. From this estimate, it seems that the Indians and Mestizos form the bulk of the population. But it is said that they are in many respects superior to the Spaniards and Creoles. They are honest industrious and peaceable, and generally cultivators of the soil. Those only are addicted to vicious habits who live in the vicinity of large towns. They are of a ruddy complexion—small in stature, and have in general well formed features. Some of them are no darker than the Spaniards, and many of their women superior in beauty to the Creole women, on account of their rosy cheeks.—The Indians are excellent soldiers, well civilized, (though still idolaters, and they will undoubtedly form the democracy of the country, and being nowise inferior to the other races, are probably destined to rule the nation. The Mexicans, before they were conquered by the spaniards, had already advanced very far in arts of government and civilization. The conquest has undoubtedly hastened their march of improvement, and if they do but retain their freedom, they will, in less than a century, in all probability be one of the great nations of the earth.—*Boston Post*.

The following are the terms upon which Texans wishes to be admitted into the Union:

1st. The continuation of slavery. 2d. A guarantee not to settle Indians in their territory. 3d. Full and equal privileges with all other states. For which considerations they will surrender all their unoccupied territory to the general government, after the payment of all claims against their republic.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

We copy the following statement from the *Freeman's Journal*:—"A most heart-rending scene occurred in this neighbourhood (county Longford) on Wednesday last, a most wretched poor man of the name of John Reilly, near Ardagh, being indebted to Dean Murray for tithes and arrears of tithes, to the amount of about five shillings, was arrested on his sick bed, to which for the last month he was confined. His case indeed, is the most pitiable one that has occurred in Ireland since the commencement of the tithe campaigning. Possessed neither of pig or goat, or any other four footed animal—having no family but a poor sickly helples wife, each of them about seventy years of age, with scarcely a rag to cover them by day or night, the only covering for both occasions being a collection of squalid patches that would defy curiosity to discover the original garb—and all their worldly substance, within and without, being put to the hammer, would not bring five shillings; yet, shameful to relate, such was the state of the above-named individual, when on Wednesday last the sheriff, chief-constable, and police, approached this miserable wad of straw. The chief constable feeling ashamed of his captives, galloped to the deanery-house, a distance of less than a quarter of a mile, to expostulate with his Reverence on the shame of the transaction, but in vain. The worthy Dean however, was so far moved by charity as to send his own ass and cart to convey the prisoner to the jail of Longford, as the writ-rebellious man could scarcely be expected