

So much for the conduct of the Federal Government in regard to Slavery, and so much for that of the individual States. Let us now see what

THE CHURCH

says upon it. The larger ecclesiastical bodies refuse to legislate at all on the subject of Slavery, on the plea that spiritual bodies have no cognizance of civil matters. Other denominations, even while bearing testimony against the evils of Slavery, admit Slaveholders to their councils, and treat them as in all respects "*recti in ecclesia*." The American Tract Society, and the American Sunday School Union, carefully expurgate all sentiments offensive to the South, from their reprints of foreign publications. The following statistics as to the number of Slaves held by ministers and laymen in the different denominations of the American Church, are believed to be correct:—

Denominations.	Church Members.	Number of Slaves.	Number of Ministers.	Number of Slaves to each Minister.
Methodists	1,178,637	219,563	5 080	43
Presbyterians	333,548	77,000	3,268	23
Baptists	812,921	125,000	6,598	18
Episcopalians	67,500	83,000	1,404	62
Campbellites	—	101,000	—	—
Other Denominations . .	—	50,000	—	—

Total number of slaves held by Ministers of the Gospel and members of the different Protestant churches, 660,563.

The denominations above cited have under their control 89 colleges with 5,495 students, and 26 theological seminaries with about 700 students. Some of these colleges and seminaries have been built and endowed partly by the sale of slaves, and all are looking for slaveholding patronage.

In fact, Church Legislation has been gradually assuming a worse aspect, and Synods which once spoke out manfully are now far from as favorable to emancipation as they were years ago. Take the following illustration of what we mean:—In 1834 the Synod of Kentucky adopted a Report on Slavery, in which they say,—“These acts (families separated from each other) are daily occurring in the midst of us. There is not a village or road that does not behold the sad procession of manacled outcasts, whose chains and mournful countenances tell that they are exiled by force from all that their hearts hold dear. Our church, years ago, raised its voice of solemn warning against this flagrant violation of every principle of mercy, justice, and humanity. Yet we blush to announce to you that this warning has been often disregarded even by those who hold to our communion. Cases have occurred in our denomination where professors of the Religion of Mercy HAVE TORN THE MOTHER FROM THE CHILDREN AND SENT HER INTO A MERCILESS AND RETURNLESS EXILE. Yet acts of