

it be, may be one of the agencies by which Providence is hastening on the final extinction of bondage in the Transatlantic World. A New St. Domingo, indeed, would never be tolerated in the midst of Anglo-Saxon light and energy; but the Negroes of the States are already a very different race of men from those who sixty years ago made a hell of that noble island. Those were fresh from the African wilds, burning with all the fierce lusts of savage existence, and wrathful under the new thralldom of their white masters. The others have long been encircled by many civilising influences; their *original* hatred to their masters has long passed away; the pleasing symptom of hundreds redeeming their freedom is witnessed every year; not a few of these freedmen have distinguished themselves in the humble career thus opened to them, and probably many more would do so but for the repressive jealousy of their white brethren.*

True, that improvement is yet in its infancy—true that, standing side by side with the lordliest type of our race, the inferiority of the Negro still seems excessive. But consider the long glory of the one and the almost immemorial degradation of the other. Can the deep debasement of three thousand years be rolled from off the Negro's soul like a mist of the morning? Can half a century in the green savannahs of America efface the scorching marks of the sun of Africa—the debasing sterility of its glowing deserts? The fertile region where now he dwells is not his own—its riches, its fruits, its beauty, are not as yet for him; and can we, remembering all this, still reject his case as hopeless because he has not risen nearer to a fellowship with a world which disowns him, and which too bitterly thrusts him back from its portals?

Colonel Cunynghame shrewdly says:—

‘The Americans of the Southern States are very anxious that all strangers should come to an unfavourable conclusion respecting the mental capabilities of the black man, invariably stating that the race are susceptible of no improvement, however much attention is lavished upon the cultivation of their minds; but that this cannot really be their

* In calculating the probabilities of the future establishment of a great negro dominion, we must not overlook the myriads of that unhappy race in the islands of the Mexican Gulf. The decree of the Provisional Government in 1848, by which all the blacks in the French islands were declared free, has worked very badly. ‘All the emigrants from Guadaloupe and Martinique with whom I conversed,’ says Marmier, ‘foresaw a bloody and terrible catastrophe. Failing energetic repression, these islands, like St. Domingo, will be lost to us. But we shall have the satisfaction, perhaps,’ he adds, with misplaced levity, ‘of witnessing the foundation of a new kingdom of the blacks, and of manufacturing at Paris the crown and sceptre of another Faustin I.’ In the course of ages, should there indeed arise a negro dominion in the New World, it will probably be attended by a concentration of the blacks from Maryland to Brazil. A central position, such as the possession of St. Domingo and one or two other islands of the Gulf would afford them, might be best both for themselves and for their white brethren, as at once concentrating and isolating them.