

been just introduced, called the Nebraska Bill, which caused a great deal of excitement, as it proposed to do away with the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which prohibited slavery to the west of that State, north of $36^{\circ} 30'$.

Before leaving England, I entertained a notion, that slavery would die out in America, but, according to present appearances, some hundreds, or even thousands of years may elapse before it does so. It is true, slavery is a vice of new or thinly-populated countries, and that in many of the old northern States it has already been extinguished. But these partial removals have hitherto been more than compensated, by the progress of it in the new States lately added to the Union. Shortly after the War of Independence, the total number of slaves was estimated at three-fourths of a million, and the time within which the institution would probably come to an end, at twenty years. Since then, as we noticed above, it has died out in some of the older States, only to spring up vigorously in new States where it was before unknown. When the vast districts to the west, which were obtained from France with Louisiana, came to be inhabited, a great contest arose about Missouri, which was the first settled. This enormous tract was added to the slave States upon the express condition, that slavery should not exist in the country to the west of it, and north of the parallel of $36^{\circ} 30'$. Then came the country ceded by Mexico. Of this California has of itself abolished slavery, but all attempts to prohibit it by an act of Congress failed, so that the extensive district of Texas was added to the slave States. In 1820, Missouri only contained 10,222