

11,000 a-year, while the Society in thirty-three years has transported only 7000 in all, many of them slaves manumitted for the purpose. Should Mr. Webster, now in office, still adhere to his above-quoted sentiments on this matter, and if Mr. Clay succeed in his present proposal, something useful may yet be done by means of the Society; though from the almost universal reluctance of the negroes to emigrate, and other obstacles, it seems destined never to realise at all the hopes of its founders.

‘It cannot be (says Mr. Johnston) that statesmen really look for any relief of the supposed evil to this plan of deportation. The proposals must rather be made as temporary expedients, and for the purpose of political conciliation. So it must have been also with Mr. Clay’s plan for the gradual abolition of slavery in Kentucky, that all born after 1860 should be free when they reached the age of twenty-five, and that they should then be apprenticed for three years, to raise a sum sufficient to transport them to a colony, to be provided for the purpose. Who can foresee what is to be the state of the Union itself, or the political position of this constantly increasing body of coloured people, in the year 1888, when the first of these freed slaves would be in a condition to be expatriated?’

‘There are now in the Union about 3,300,000 slaves, and 500,000 free coloured people. If these increase at the present ratio of 3 or even $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, they will amount respectively, in 1890, to 1,250,000 of free coloured, and to upwards of 7,000,000 of slaves! The new constitutions adopted in Kentucky and Illinois forbid the immigration and settlement of free people of colour in these States, and order the expulsion of such as are made free. But when numbers multiply so greatly, what law, unless it be that another St. Bartholomew shall be enacted, will prevent these numbers from spreading over the land?’

Are, then, these poor creatures destined yet to struggle through blood and fire to some half-savage monarchy of their own? or, humanised by generations of peace, will they emerge gradually, and almost unnoticed, into a civilised and Christian community? Another St. Bartholomew will not do:—a thought so devilish could never creep into the manly American heart; and if their present rate of increase continues as it seems likely to do, ere this century has closed the expense of retaining such a population in subjection will outweigh any profit derivable from their compulsory labour. A nation of ten million Africans cannot be held in a silken leash: Prussia, under the Great Frederick, had hardly half that number, and yet she baffled the leagued forces of three empires. With the excessive antipathy to every shade of black blood which pervades every part of the Union, it may be long before a Negro State will be permitted to rear its head. But every year is bringing this climax nearer; and the very care at present bestowed upon the breeding of slaves, revolting though

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