

PREFATORY NOTE.

A half-formed determination to express, in print, views of the questions at issue in the United States, which had been received with good favour when uttered in conversation, was confirmed by the appearance of Mr. Jefferson Davis's "Message to the Confederate Congress," and the tendency of the English press to receive his assertions and charges against the North as the truth and without question. He puts his case in such explicit and unequivocal language, as to carry conviction to the minds of many, who have not paid attention to American domestic politics, and he must be met in terms equally decided. An attempt is made in the following pages to do this.

The extraordinary inconsistencies of the Federal Government, both in its domestic and foreign policy, have been fruitful topics of comment in English books and reviews for half a century; and unless some principle underlying them all can be found to which that policy is consistent, the conclusion is inevitable that the United States have often been ruled by men, hardly fitted to be entrusted with the affairs of a parish. The key to the whole, is the influence of Slavery upon American politics. This was pointed out forty years since by Northern Statesmen, but took no deep hold upon the attention of the public until the moral influence of England was felt (since 1830), against human bondage. A chapter upon this topic in Mrs. Child's (Miss Francis's) "Appeal in behalf of that class of Americans called 'Africans,'" (Boston, 1835), awakened attention and carried conviction to many minds, especially to young men and youths now active leaders in American politics. The attention of the present writer was thus directed to the question, and twenty-five years of study and observation have confirmed the truth of the views then expressed by Mrs. Child.

The authorities upon the nature and powers of the Constitution are the "Letter," or address, which accompanied