

return to its perplexing ritual, its unbending obligations, and its inflexible curse. But a Galatian Gentile, ignorant of Moses, would have taken the Apostle's words in what we may call the secondary sense, and understood him to be referring to the actual yoke of slavery, and to the sufferings which captives have to endure, when they are deprived of all the rights of humanity, and degraded to the level of the brute creation, inasmuch as in that age of the world slavery was practised by almost every nation on the face of the whole earth. While both Jewish and Gentile Christians must have seen under the similitude, however they might understand, it the one thing signified, viz: The deliverance of all mankind, by the promised Saviour, from the bondage of corruption and admission into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Considerations like these, my friends, may serve to acquit me of any charge of novel interpretation, or that which is just about the same thing, straining of the sense of Scripture, although I may take the passage, altogether, in what I called the secondary sense, especially as I intend to direct your attention principally to the one thing signified, which is, as I said before, Redemption by Christ from the guilt, the defilement, the condemnation, and the consequences of sin. To this end let me call your attention to two things.

First,—To the fact assumed.

Second,—To the exhortation founded thereon.

And while I endeavour, by God's help, to make this day's meeting, in some degree, profitable to all you that hear me, may the God of all grace so incline your ears to hear and your minds to understand, that this occasion may, under Him, tend to strengthen the faith of his adopted children among you, and contribute towards emancipating the souls of such as are not already emancipated from sin, and to admit all into closer fellowship with the saints and with the household of God.

1st.—Now first, the fact assumed is, the fact, (the mighty and important fact), of Redemption "Christ hath made us free."

For the sake of illustration and of dealing with the subject methodically, I will, at the outset, lay down a short sketch of that other fact, which we are assembled to commemorate to-day, the emancipation of the colored population of the West India Islands, and other British Colonies and Dependencies.

On the 28th of August in the year 1833, an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain for the abolition of slavery throughout the British Colonies, and for the promotion of industry among the manumitted slaves, and for pecuniary relief to the persons hitherto supposed to be entitled to the services of such slaves, passed both Houses, and soon became the law of the Empire. By the operation of this Act slavery terminated in the British possessions on the 1st of August 1834 and 770,280 persons of color, or in round numbers, nearly 800,000, were made free. With great sacrifice, my friends, and with very great exertion at the hand of those of the Lord's people, who achieved this bloodless victory, obtained ye and your fathers this freedom.

Of the wisdom of such a procedure, there can be only one opinion *now*. But the great searchings of heart which possessed some of the firmest advocates of the measure, are handed down to us as matters of history. It was not without a desperate struggle that the opponents of the bill permitted it