

"I hold that the laws of 1850, commonly called the 'compromise measures,' are strictly constitutional, and to be unhesitatingly carried into effect. I believe that the constituted authorities of this republic are bound to regard the rights of the South in this respect, as they would view any other legal and constitutional right, and that the laws to enforce them should be respected and obeyed, not with a reluctance encouraged by abstract opinions as to their propriety in a different state of society, but cheerfully, and according to the decisions of the tribunal to which their exposition belongs. Such have been, and are, my convictions, and upon them I shall act. I fervently hope that the question is at rest, and that no sectional, or ambitious, or fanatical excitement may again threaten the durability of our institutions, or obscure the light of our prosperity."

So far, then, as the President and his Senate are concerned, they are pledged to Slavery. For the last twenty years the American government has been plotting to annex every country around, in order to extend the area of Slavery. Texas, California, New Mexico have been added to the Union, and already has the Slave Trader found his way into them. The following paragraphs indicate what are the designs of the Slaveholders in regard to California:—

"The division of California into three States, distinct and separate, is now contemplated and pressed there. A majority of the Legislature, it is said, will order a State Convention, and upon that Convention will depend the mode, manner, and boundaries of division.

"The three States are to be named 'Sierra,' the mountain division, which has about 23,000 inhabitants by the last census; 'California,' which has 207,388; and 'Tulare,' the Southern State, including Los Angeles and San Diego, which has 34,150 inhabitants, and about seven and a half millions of taxable property. This Southern State of Tulare, in the division, it is contemplated by many of the occupants to make a slave State of, and one of the objects for pressing the division is to establish slavery there."

Cuba and Hayti are now the magnificent Slave territories to which, with longing eyes, they are looking forward. President Pierce states that his "administration will not be controlled by any timid forebodings of evil from Expansion," and seeks not to "disguise" that "our attitude as a nation, and our position on the globe, render the acquisition of certain possessions, not within our jurisdiction, eminently important for our protection, &c." He should have added, "for the protection of our peculiar institution." True, there are a few noble exceptions amongst the Senators of the Union—men who have stood up manfully in behalf of freedom and the rights of the slave. The scathing speeches of Hale, and Sumner, and Giddings, and others, prove that they could not be gagged, even though they should be excluded from every committee for not belonging to a "healthy organization."

STATE LEGISLATION.

If now we look to the individual States, an equally discouraging spectacle is presented. According to public law, Slavery is sectional and Freedom is universal—the birthright of every human being. If, therefore, a man escapes from Slavery into a State where Slavery is