

denounced. One of the leading papers of Paris, the *Journal des Debats*, has the following interesting article in regard to the persecutions in Spain:—

“ We have called attention to the persecutions suffered by the few Spaniards who have professed the Protestant religion. One of them, Mr. Manuel Matamoros, convicted of having sold Spanish Bibles, has been condemned to the galleys for seven years. He is not the only victim of the intolerant principles inscribed in the Spanish code. From information which he himself has addressed to the *Clamor Publico*, eight persons are still in prison at Malaga, on account of their religion; seven at Seville, three at Granada, and many others have also been arrested at Barcelona, Cordova, and Jaen. Some of these are women, and one is a girl of only seventeen years of age. From Malaga, Granada and Seville, about fifty fathers of families have been compelled to emigrate, to escape the rigor of the law, and have left their wives and children in a state of destitution. The Spanish authorities feel all the odium of these persecutions, and endeavour to divide public opinion by representing the persons arrested or condemned as guilty of conspiracy against the State, and thus giving a political colour to these absurd acts of violence which are an outrage upon reason and humanity. But they adduce no fact in support of these allegations. The truth is, that the police have seized all the papers of Matamoros, and his fellow sufferers, some of whom have been tried and acquitted, and yet not a single document has been published to prove anything against them. Mr. Matamoros is nothing but a sincere believer; the only faction he serves, at the peril of the galleys, is the Gospel; the only party he consents to follow, at the risk of liberty and life, is Jesus Christ.”

It is to be hoped that sentiments like those expressed in England and France, may yet prove effectual in bringing even the Spanish Government to its senses, and induce it to stop to proceedings which are bringing upon it the righteous reprobation and contempt of the civilized world.

Since our last number was issued, the aspects of the American war have been materially altered by some event like the manifestation of a purpose to deal rigorously with the cause of rebellion. We concluded our number of the subject last month with the expression of our belief, that if the Federal Government had at once recognized slavery and its interests as the source of the evil the nation is now feeling, there would have been a more cordial sympathy for the North, and earnest prayer for its success. But we think would have been advised policy at the beginning, has been tutored at last. The recent act of Congress in passing a law prohibiting the return of slaves to their masters, will produce a mighty influence in hastening the termination of the unhappy strife. But besides this, the President's recommendation for the adoption of measures for the gradual extinction of slavery, by offering a fair compensation to the holders of slaves, will doubtless secure the ultimate abolition of the entire system of African bondage. It is well known that for a long time many slaveholders, convinced of the evils of slavery, have desired its termination, and by many the recommendation of the President will be hailed as a omen that the day of deliverance is drawing nigh. The course of the war is also largely favourable to the preservation of the Union, and we hope for the speedy return of peace, and the adoption of an equitable plan for the abolition of slavery.