

tels. The slave code of the South declares that slaves shall always be reputed and considered as real estate, and as such shall be subject to be mortgaged according to the rules of law, and be subject to be seized and sold as real estate. The same slave code declares the slave to be wholly in the power of his or her master. The master may sell him, or dispose of his person in any way that suits his cupidity, caprice, or lust, and has the sole right to the products of his industry, his genius and his labor. The slave can do nothing, acquire nothing, possess nothing, and is nothing but a chattel. Everything he does, obtains, acquires, and is, belongs to his master, to do with as he sees fit. He sustains no more relation to the human species than bank stock, a house, a piece of land, a horse, or a cow, and is equally subject, with them, to be seized upon at any time and sold to pay the debts of either a living or a dead master. These definitions plainly declare that a slave is not to be ranked among rational or sentient beings, but among things—as an article of property, a chattel personal. This code has been framed for the express purpose of keeping this rational being on a level with the brutes—this sentient being on an equality with the inanimate objects of creation. And what is this atrocious slave code but an index to the moral state of the hearts of its framers, and all who abet and sustain this gigantic wrong?