

THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY AND ONE OF ITS OPERATORS.

BY THOS. E. CHAMPION.

Just thirty years ago, came to a close the terrible fratricidal struggle between the Federal and Confederate forces of the United States. To many of the readers of the CANADIAN MAGAZINE the momentous events of the period covered by Abraham Lincoln's first term of office as President, from March, 1861 until the same month

four years later, are known only through the pages of history. To many more these same events constitute a very sad and even bitter memory, for they recollect with shame and indignation how many there were in this "Canada of ours" who wished well to the Confederates, and hoped that the South might succeed in its unrighteous endeavors to break up the American Union, to form a separate nation, a result which had it been attained would have perpetuated

the vile system of African slavery which Britain had, years before, abolished in her colonies, at the cost of many millions of pounds sterling.

For long years before the outbreak of hostilities between the Northern and the Southern States, negro slavery was a very troublesome political ques-

tion in the Legislature of the American Republic. In the North there was a very strong party whose platform was absolute and complete emancipation for the negro. They recognized no property in human flesh and blood, and were prepared to abolish slavery throughout the Union without any compensation whatever

to the slave-owners. They asserted that the system was contrary to Divine precepts, in the first place, and inimical to the good of the Commonwealth, in the second, and, therefore, that men who held property as slaves had no moral right on their side, and, therefore, no legal claim upon their country to be compensated for the loss of such property, should the Legislature of the United States declare for the total abolition of slavery in the Re-



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public.

There can be no room for doubt as to the soundness of this doctrine, so far as the moral aspect of the case is taken into consideration; but as to the legal right of the planters and other employers of slave labor, the case is very different. They had ac-