

celebrated Declaration, dated July 4, 1776 :
 " We hold these truths to be self-evident,
 that all men are *created equal* ; that they
 are endowed by their Creator, with certain
unalienable rights ; that among them are
 life, *liberty*," &c. &c. " If," says one,
 " there is an object truly ridiculous in na-
 ture, it is an American patriot signing reso-
 lutions of independence with the one hand,
 and with the other brandishing a whip over
 his affrighted slaves."

At that period the abolition of the slave-
 trade had few advocates, but a considerable
 improvement has taken place. Whole re-
 ligious societies have relinquished the hold-
 ing of slaves. It is entirely abolished in
 some of the States. In others, provision is
 made for its gradual abolition. In Ver-
 mont, Massachusetts and New Hampshire,
 there are no slaves ; in the States of Rhode
 Island and Connecticut, very few. But,
 after all, it is a lamentable fact, that the
 number of slaves is encreasing. A census
 of all the inhabitants in the several States,
 is taken once in ten years.