

and five couple of hounds, coupled together. After what had happened at Vicksburg, my suspicions were aroused, and I said to the man next me, "Fine hounds those; hunt deer with 'em, I suppose."—"No, no,—niggers, niggers—hunt niggers with 'em," he replied. I then got out, and went up to the elder of the young men who had care of the hounds, and repeated the remark I had made before. "Yes," he answered, "two-legged deer." The crowd round (for there were a number of people patting and caressing the dogs) laughed heartily at this sally, and I drew back a little to listen to what others said. "Them's a capital pack o' negro dogs," said one; "worth a heap o' money every one on 'em." Then a second, at a little distance, pointing to the elder of the two who had care of the dogs, said, "I know him very well,—he makes his living by going about the country with those dogs, hunting runaways." Then chimed in a third—"No nigger as ever breathed 'ud ever get quit o' those dogs, if they once got upon his tracks—no, not if he had gone by forty-eight hours before; not even if he had mixed in a crowd of 500 people." And so the conversation went on.

The American Government, which is generally so minute in its details, and points with justifiable pride to the occupations of its people, has not yet favoured the world with the statistics of so unusual a branch of industry. We may know the take of mackerel and of whales, but we cannot find what the catch of human flesh has been, nor the number of men and dogs employed in the pursuit.

All, then, I can assert is, that in a period of forty