

PROVINCIAL FREEMAN.

WINDSOR.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1853.

Motions of Canadian Members.

Do we need anti-slavery labor in Canada? We say, Yes, and let us "Use every available way to purify church." And that is, however, the Province and its inhabitants bear very important relations to American slavery. Else, no good reader while we discuss them, is about some of these relations. We shall now speak of two, viz., the antagonistic and the friendly.

1. The fact that *this* is a British Province, and that slavery has no existence on British soil—*the fact that this* was never established by *slavery*—and the fact that since the *new* *imperial* Somersett decision, the slave of another country became a freeman by sounding *one* *soul*—*place* *it* *in* *relations* *of* *antagonism* *to* *slavery*. This was early seen and felt by the slaves, and *earlier* seen and felt by the slaveholders. Accordingly,

as early as 1845, the attention of the U.S. Government was directed to this point. In the month of May, of that year, the House of Representatives passed a resolution calling upon the President to enter into correspondence with the British Government, for the recovery of slaves who had escaped into Canada. The reply of President Adams, to this resolution was that his Excellency had, of his own accord, commenced such a correspondence some ten or fifteen days before. [See *Day's View*.] From that time to 1845, the number of slaves escaping to Canada constantly and rapidly increased. Then, when a treaty was made between the two Governments, called the *Ashburton Treaty*, it was most earnestly sought on the part of the United States Government, first to put an *article* *in* *it* which should anathematize slavery in Canada; and so *constantly* so to interpret the *various* *articles* of that treaty, so as to make the slaves in Canada *safe* *from* *justice*, *no* *slave* *as* *a* *felon*, though they should use a horse or a boat to convey them to their *way* *Canadian*-wards, or though they should strike a blow to prevent some slave from impeding their progress. Canada, therefore, from her connection with the British Empire, was *an* *impartial* *Freedom*. And then, as he stood his seven years probation, and asked the oath of allegiance, Canada secured to him, at home and abroad, in land and in property, all the rights and immunities of a British subject.

But this *unwritten* view of our relations to the *United States* *was* *fatal* *to* *us*—*as* *it* *is* *deep* *disgrace* *to* *us*; it is true, but disgraceful as it is, it is useless to contend that *abolition* *slavery* *is* *to* *be* *condemned* *in* *any* *form* *that* *one* *can* *imagine*.

2. There are some parties here who practice slave-driving in the South. They force slaves to have the grain they desire from whaling the whip over its victims. A sprinkling of such customs is to be found here and there, the Province over.

2. There are others, too, who have annexed themselves to slave estates. Having received their wives and slaves by the same act of misprision; they are strongly tempted to regard slavery to be as sacred as marriage.

3. Then there are persons resident in Canada who were once slaveholders in the West Indies. The glorious people of Great Britain, determined to have the great principles of British freedom applied practically to the enslaved, as well as to all others, like Job, through the Government, broke the jaws of the wicked, and delivered us from out of their teeth. But these ex-slaveholders were never convinced of the sin of slaveholding—or, if convinced of it, they never were converted from it. Hence they are in spirit now, what they were in practice before the Act of 1833. The influence of these parties is as deeply and wickedly pro-slavery as that of the *other* *slaveholders* of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, or Baltimore.

4. As a born Yankee, we are ashamed of it, but it is true that too many of the states of the United States have brought their pro-slavery with them, from the other side. Like the refugee slaves, they come here to enjoy an improvement of their condition; and like them, too, they enjoy the existing *rule* of this good British nation; for fear of incurring the blame of being a disloyal spectator, whom Burton, who acted as *secretary* to the meeting, requested to be present when talking, as did several others. He became offended at Burton, only, however, invited him out, and deprived him of life in a few minutes. Their refinements, within doors, were so quiet, that but one or two persons knew that words had passed, and when they, and those near them, were out, the impression in the house was, that they were indifferent to the proceedings, as the debasing *blackmail*, and *extortion* were, being for the most singular. These are not the only *slaveholders* here, but from the daily newspaper, we learn that they are.

Conclusion.

This column of our *Freeman* will be continued in the *next* *number* of the *New-England Anti-Slavery Review*.

more, they most industriously spread and magnify their sentiments, and seek to make them prevalent and controlling, even to the violation of His Majesty's laws. We could give abundant illustrations of this.

It remains to be said, that the *opposition* against negroes so prevalent in various parts of the Province, as maintained by many persons of all nations, including, of course, native Canadians, is one of the strongest pro-slavery influences that disgraces and degrades our country; it does more to place us side by side with American aggressors than any other thing. Every body knows that it is the North, or the South, that supplies the power of public opinion, of the pulpit, the press, commerce, manufactures, literature, religion, politics, everything that keeps slavery alive. Now the sentiment—the controlling sentiment of the people of the North, that renders them the volunteer body-guard of slavery, is *their* negro-slaves. The maintenance of a like negro-hood, of course, engenders the same feeling there, and sets it doing its very worst work. Every Canadian negro-hater is a volunteer British slaveholder. Every such one is a strengtheners of the slave system, and two people, that should be such, is one of the worst facts—the foulest disgrace—the deepest degradation—in all our history.

So long as these exist, we shall want anti-slavery laborers, organizations, agitation, and newspapers in Canada. Our humble life shall be devoted to the countering of the pro-slavery of our adopted country. It is for this reason that we leave our dear hearthstone, and expose ourselves to so many disgraces, as a fugitive agent of the Canadian Anti-Slavery Society. Hence it is we consent, without pay, to scribble for the Provincial Freeman. And we do this, because the education and improvement of our people will fit this country to liberty and humanity—the friendship for freedom—low, in a death, and bound that know no resurrection, and that of the last instant day. At any rate we shall stand on no hope.

Let the pro-slavery of Canada be overthrown, and let the anti-slavery influence of our law, constitution, and positive law fully and freely exerted, and there is no portion of the British Empire whose influence against slavery would be as healthful and so potent as that of Canada. A consummation most devoutly to be wished for!

Apology.

The number of the *Freeman* is published under very unfavorable circumstances. Mr. Ward is either travelling, or at his residence, more than 350 miles from Windsor, where this number is printed; and as Mr. W. is obliged to perform other labors for a livelihood, it is impossible for him to give the attention to the paper that he would like. After getting his consent to write for the *Freeman*, one or two circumstances rendered it necessary to get out this number, as an apology.

On the 4th inst., a murder was committed in Windsor, under circumstances of a most aggravating character. The murderer and the murdered were both young men, under age, the first, a youth of violent temper, the other, however known, respected for his upright deportment. The commission of such an act, in a quiet village, naturally enough, sent a thrill of horror through the community. The sudden and unexpected nature of the occurrence—the very slight point in dispute, so far as is known, and theunciarity character of Wm. Burton, the victim, combined to produce such a result.

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