

terrifying the others and of rendering them submissive to their fate.

The first blacks—a batch of twenty—landed in America at Jamestown in 1609; they count at this moment eight million in the United States alone. Neither New England nor the Northern States found slavery profitable. With the South it was different. Its staples, tobacco, cotton, rice, simply required labor to yield plentifully. The black slave admirably filled the bill and to the circumstances he owes it that he became, as it were, the indispensable appanage of the Southern estate. The invention of the cotton-gin added a fresh demand for his invaluable services: and the erection of great cotton factories all over the country strained the slave-market to its utmost capacity. Statistics are present to show that between 1793 and 1808 nearly 5,000,000 blacks were dragged forth from their African wilds

At his first appearance the slave was not treated too badly. Some of his rights were respected, some crumbs of civilization thrown his way; but it did not last. Soon the negro ceased to be regarded as a human being or as endowed with immortal qualities. To his master, he became no better than a soulless tool, entitled to no more consideration than interest or whim dictated. Legislation helped to rivet his chains. The educating of a negro was a crime punishable with prison, on the plea that an educated slave was a menace to society. Such was law in Louisiana. Marriage as a rite was unknown to the slaves. A statute common to every State empowered the white to kill forthwith the black who struck or offered him violence. It is no wonder that the slave sunk beneath the level of the savage, nay, the brute. His free unfettered life in Africa past forever; his native tongue and customs forgotten; hopelessly crushed in his aspirations and ambitions, what was there left to satisfy his thoughts and desires except despair and the sensual indulgence allowed by the moment. But if the lot of the slave could hardly be worse, the slave-master did not escape the most awful effects of slavery. For the most part he appeared to be utterly sordid and brutal. In contact with a profoundly degraded class, he finished in his turn by acknowledging no obligation either to God or his fellow man.