

And may the same Holy Spirit of God give us all grace to think of these things more earnestly, and to take heed to such things as make for our everlasting peace, that we may look back to this and every *emancipation day*, as spiritual land-marks, as periods from which our best interests shall date, saying, in the spirit of the blind man, as we lift our hearts in prayer to God, "One thing I know, that whereas (before that) I was a slave, now (since that) I am free. But,

2nd.—I must now turn to the second division of my subject, the exhortation formed on the fact assumed, "Stand fast," says he, "in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

To illustrate this branch of the subject we might imagine, and the picture, in detail at least, would not be very improbable, we might imagine a number of poor slaves, cast, after having been cruelly beaten and abused, (as slaves down south frequently are) into a loathsome prison, there to sigh out their wretched lives, till fever perchance, or some further violence, release them, suppose that to such people, in such a case, there should come at midnight a physician, who after binding up their wounds, and reviving their broken spirits, should open the doors of the prison house, and say "escape for your lives, look not behind you, follow you star, and it shall lead you into liberty and life." Suppose them with rapture and joy to arise and depart at once, and, hope giving them strength, after various perils and at different times, all to arrive at the freedman's soil, and then one of them, recognizing the true character of the deliverance should address his fellows in words like these, "We are free; let us cherish our freedom, using its privileges aright and beware if we abuse them of being remitted back to bondage."

I say my friends, that such advice, given at such a time could not fail to be of great use to them, and to influence their future lives materially, with one voice they would respond to the exhortation and cry "we will, we will, by the help of God."

Yet my friends, such a picture would convey but a faint idea of the condition and feelings of the man, who, by the power of Christ, and through faith in His blood, has been emancipated from the guilt and dominion of sin and "created anew in Christ Jesus unto good works." The feelings of emancipated slaves, though similar in character, convey but a poor estimate of what a christian feels when to the conviction of the demerit of sin there has succeeded that inward calm, that peace which they possess who love God's law, that peace which is secured by the blood of the cross.

To such a man what is usually called gratitude is but an inadequate expression of his love. His whole soul is his Saviour's. He pours out his whole being in return for the gift. He feels that his Saviour's blood *only* was able to wash away his sins, and he wonders and adores. Tell him to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made him free, to hold fast the blessed hope of immortal life, the sublime prospect of future glory and you touch a chord that vibrates through his whole being. The recollection of his former degradation is amply sufficient to make and keep him humble, to preserve him under God's grace from falling. Such a man would reverently cry, "God be merciful to me a sinner." "Lord increase my faith."