

settlement of the territories, and their admission to the Union, gave rise to the much vexed question of slavery.

The territories were public property of the domain of the Federal Government—as such they were considered. Thither the Southerners went with their families, their slaves, and opened plantations. To their efforts the colonization of those territories was almost entirely due.

But when those large and Federal colonies became populous enough to require a Government, the philanthropic abolitionists of the North stepped in and refused to permit the Southerners to enjoy the rights which they had already established.

The Southerners contended that the existence of slavery in the territories or in any new State should depend on the will of the majority of the voters of such territory or state. A compromise was, however, made in 1850, on the admission of Missouri into the Union.

But the same spirit existed still in the North. Slavery was made a question of political agitation by the aspirants for governmental honours, office seekers and sentimentalists. Petitions poured into the senate from all the disinterested and humane philanthropists of the North, demanding the abolition of that obnoxious institution, notwithstanding that the counsels of the Federal nation had, as they declared, no right whatever to legislate on that question.

The severest invectives, denunciations, and insults were hurled unsparingly against the slaveholders.

Helper's book was made the text book of the fanatic orators of the Republican party—that book which declared at page 163 “that three-fourths of a century hence, if the South retains slavery, which God forbid! she will be to the North what Poland is to Russia, Cuba to Spain, Ireland