

The Dawn of Tomorrow

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THE NUMBER OF NEGROES IN CANADA

The number of Negroes in Canada at the opening of the Civil War is of importance as showing the effect which the refuge afforded in this country had upon the slave holdings of the south. The Canadian official census figures of 1850 and 1860 have been shown to be quite untrustworthy, the Negro population being greatly underestimated. Rev. S. R. Ward, who was himself a fugitive, says that in taking the census designations of color were provided for but were ignored by the enumerators. Any definite figure is equally difficult to arrive at from consideration of estimates made by travelers and others at the time. R. J. Hinton, biographer of John Brown, gives the highest estimate when he says that in 1853 there were at least 75,000 fugitives in Canada. Rev. W. M. Mitchell, a Negro missionary resident at Toronto, made an estimate of 60,000, in 1860, a figure that was supported by Rev. Dr. Willis, president of the Anti-Slavery Society of Canada, and Rev. Hiram Wilson, a missionary among the Negroes who probably knew as much about them as any man of the time. Levi Coffin when he visited Canada in 1844 was told that there were 40,000 and this is the figure given by Rev. S. R. Ward in 1850. The first annual report of the Anti-Slavery Society of Canada estimated the Negro population in 1851 at 30,000, of whom between five and six thousand had come in during the last two years. Josiah Henson, in 1852, put the figure at between twenty and thirty thousand, "daily increasing," while James B. Brown, a British traveler, estimated 30,000 in 1881. Dr. S. G. Howe, in 1863, thought the Negroes at that time in Canada numbered between fifteen and twenty thousand.

Rev. S. R. Ward, in making his estimate, states that the majority of the Negroes were refugees from southern slavery. Outside of the children born in Canada he did not think that there were 3000 free-born Negroes in the whole colony. He speaks of a better class of free-born people beginning to come in after the passage of the fugitive slave act of 1850. From the contemporary records, as well as from the evidence of Negro population to-day, it is safe to say that there were more Negroes in the western part of Ontario than in all the

(Continued on page 2)



Yon Old-Fashioned Stable

How strange that a stable, designed by its owner
For housing of cattle and folding of sheep,
Should e'er become famous because a young mother
There tenderly cuddled her infant to sleep.
It was but a stable, unnamed and unnoted!
To it ne'er a tribute of honour was paid
Until in its manger, so crude and uncushioned,
A modest young mother her first-born had laid.

'Twas there that she cradled her newly-born treasure,
When he, by her crooning, had fallen asleep,
Though with her sweet singing perchance oft there mingled
The lowing of cattle and bleating of sheep.
'Twas in that old stable the infant called Jesus
Was wrapped by his mother in swaddling clothes,
And out from that manger there went forth the story
Of One who, in mercy, delivered his foes.

'Tis not for its beauty we love that old stable,
It is for the mother and babe at her breast:
We love the low manger, although in its crudeness
It gave not the baby a feathery nest.
The inn, which was crowded, from sight long has vanished,
For ages on ages have taken their flight:
Yet fondly we vision yon old-fashioned stable,
Where Mary first cuddled her infant at night.

—MACK

NEGRO SLAVERY AS A TROUBLE MAKER IN BRITISH EMPIRE

—By—

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The enormous influence of Negro Slavery toward disintegrating the United States is well-known; that it nearly succeeded in destroying that Union is a fact of which no one can be ignorant—but its evil tendencies, shown in respect of the British Empire, are also unknown—or, at least, if not unknown, ignored by writers on the subject.

The encouragement given to the African Slave Trade by the authorities at Westminster in early times was for the advantage of the trade of the Mother country, and some, at least, of the American Colonies did their best to destroy the infamous traffic, or to lessen as much as possible its evils. In an article: Encouragement of the Slave Trade: in "The Journal of Negro History," Vol. XII (January 1927), I have given some account of the troubles of the American Colonies in that regard.

It is not so well known that in the first draft of the Declaration of Independence of 1776, the forcing of the Slave Trade upon the colonies was made one of the charges against the unhappy King George—of course, the offensive Orders were made in the name of the Sovereign for the time being, but that was a form, and the sovereign was in almost every case not only innocent but even ignorant of their contents. This part of the proposed Declaration of Independence was abandoned for fear of hurting the susceptibilities of some of the members of the Continental Congress from the South, unanimity being much more important than the inclusion of the charge of any offence, however gross.

Not only did some of the colonies on the continent object to the Slave Trade, but the same objections were there and expressed by some of the Insular Colonies in the West Indies. However, just as Negro Slavery, objectionable as it may have been considered had no part in bringing about the revolt of the Thirteen Continental Colonies, so it had no effect toward a repudiation of the authority of the Mother Country in the Islands at that time or for about half-a-century later.

The strong objection to the system.
Continued on page 7