

women, and children, who had settled in the Free States as an asylum, dragged away from among them by their pursuing owners, has greatly excited the New Englanders. We read lately in the newspapers of a slave recaptured after five years' freedom; and another case of a female far advanced in pregnancy, whose offspring of course would become the property of her captor. Ten years ago, Lord Carlisle says, there were people who made it the business of their lives to superintend the passage of the runaway slaves through the Free States, and about a thousand negroes yearly thus made their way into Canada. Colonel Cunynghame does not surprise us by stating that the exertions for the escape of slaves have been largely stimulated by the Fugitive Bill; and that the influx of Black immigrants of loose habits into the Provinces was producing every day more and more annoyance to our magistracy and police.

It is true that the hearts of both ends of the Union are still very proud of belonging to a great country so rapidly growing—far too proud to forego this boast without some most serious motive; yet it seems impossible to doubt that the question of slavery will ultimately tear asunder the Confederacy. Such a dissolution, Mr. Johnston tells us, was a topic discussed everywhere in the States. Clingman and his followers had already 'brought it up' in Congress as a thing to be expected, were California admitted (as she has been), and other Free State measures adopted; and it will doubtless occur as soon as the States of this class obtain a decided superiority in the Legislature. Of late years their party has been greatly increased by the new Free States that have sprung up in the West. It is alleged that the main impulse to the war with Mexico was given by the desire of the Southerners to regain their equality, by capturing and erecting into slaveholding States the immense territory of Texas—which they have accomplished. It is notorious that the violent opposition to the incorporation of California arose from the anxiety of the South to exclude from Congress, and of the North to admit, the deputies of this great *Free State*.* Indeed this question of Slavery

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* If the leading journal of California expresses the sentiments of the new State, the danger from its admission into the Union is not so imminent as the Southern States suppose; and the resplendent peroration of the following extract ought, as the writer intends, to soothe them:—'For the last fifteen years,' says the *Alta California*, 'in our Northern States there has existed a class, many of them of pure minds and honest desires, but at the same time men whose ideas encompassed but a small space, who in every possible manner have warred against the institution of slavery among their Southern brethren. The action at the North necessarily caused a re-action at the South; and during the stormy times that attended the ushering in to our bright constellation of a sister star sparkling with golden radiance, fanatics of the North and South were busy hurling their revengeful meteors at us, at the constellation of which