

II. II. GARNET'S APPEAL FOR THE BONDSMAN

He who asks your attention is, according to law, an American slave, and comes to intreat your Christian interposition on behalf of his race.

You may not know what American slavery is from personal observation. Permit me to give you a fair definition. An American slave is an article of property—he is a chattel personal—he is not ranked amongst thinking beings. He has a mind; but he has no aids to help him to think. His dearest relations, and the sacred ties of affection, are ruthlessly broken asunder at the will of his master. His marriage is seldom recognised, and is never regarded to be legal. He is denied the privileges which are enjoyed in the house of God. The Bible is closed to his eyes; and his person is the tomb of his buried intellect.

Sometimes the English labourer is insulted by being compared to such an unfortunate man. It is true the poor man of Great Britain may be compelled to toil hard for a livelihood; but he toils for himself. He may not own an inch of soil; but he owns himself. He may receive but scanty wages; the American slave receives [none] at all. He may dwell in a humble tenement; but it is home—sweet home! and no tyrant dares to separate his family, or to intrude upon his domestic rights. If he dislikes the land of his birth, he can leave it whenever he pleases, and seek one more congenial to his mind; and there will be no bloodhounds sent out upon his [tracks], to drag him back to prison, torture, or death. And here, all can worship God without molestation, and whoso chooses may read the Sacred Scriptures.

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In the United States of America, there are three millions of wretched and unprotected slaves. The Brazilians have about the same number; and in the Spanish colonies

there are a million. These slaves produce cotton, sugar, rice, tobacco, and coffee. A great portion of these articles are bought and consumed by the British people. They give the slaveholders their money or manufactures in exchange for the products of their blood-stained fields, and thus furnish the tyrants with the only motive for continuing the atrocious system. The remedy is self-evident.

Withdraw the motive, and the evil will cease. Put no more British gold into the coffers of the American slaveholder, and the fate of American slavery will be sealed.

To show the connection between the demand for slave produce and the price of slaves, I may mention the case of the unfortunate Emily Russell, with the mother of whom I am personally acquainted, and have seen the manifestations of her inconsolable grief. Some time in the early part of this year, Emily was brought by the notorious slave traders, Bruin and Hill of Alexandria.

On the 22nd of January last, she wrote to her mother in New York; and the following is an extract from her letter, dictated in prison: 'My dear mother, will you please come on as soon as you can? I expect to go away shortly. O mother! my dear mother! come now, and see your distressed and heart-broken daughter once more!

Mother! my dear mother! do not forsake me, for I feel desolate. Please, come now.' In speaking of her, the trader used this language: 'She is the finest looking woman in this country. I cannot afford to sell her for less than eighteen hundred dollars. This may seem a high price to you; but cotton being very high, slaves are consequently high.'

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Such is the logic of men, who, with fiend-like composure, speak of their commerce in the souls of our brethren.

O let a voice go forth from the sons and daughters of Great Britain, proclaiming, in no uncertain tones, the deepest and most unqualified condemnation of the murderous system of American slavery. Let them tell the tyrants that their blood-stained goods are not needed here—that the people of this country regard their productions as the results of forced and stolen labor, and therefore will not purchase them, lest they should be accessories to the crime. It is estimated that every seven British families employ one slave, and thus become the means of entailing upon him all the evils inherent in the system. Alas! at what a cost are your tables supplied, and your persons adorned and clothed! What Christian or philanthropist is there who does not, upon reflection, shudder at the thought of paying such a price! The sugar, rice, and cotton-growing States of the far South, are supplied with slaves from the more northern slave States of Maryland and Virginia. These poor creatures, thus transported, live upon an average, only from five to seven years. Think of this astounding destruction of human happiness, intellect, and life. Will Christians and humane persons, and especially anti-slavery people, knowingly contribute to such a cruel system? It cannot be done without a gross violation of the golden rule. If any of these unfortunate persons were your kindred according to the flesh, you would repudiate the thought of purchasing the products of their unrequited labour. Are we not all brethren and children of a common Father? Are we not required to remember them that are in bonds as being bound with them? You are implored to consider this matter. Do not despise the day of small things, and turn away from the subject, because but a few have adopted the principles of abstinence. Bear in mind that justice and mercy

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