

The Rev. H.H. Garnet, who spoke English with great fluency, then delivered an eloquent address, in which he said there were three millions of slaves in the United States, three millions more in Brazil, and about one million in the West India islands; but the slavery of the United States was the most cruel, and the greatest efforts were made to give it a long life. He proceeded to sketch the main features of the system, especially viewing it in connexion with the religion of the country. He stated the various sects who held slaves, and the numbers they held; and dwelt at some length upon the enormities of the Fugitive Slave Law, illustrating its working in an interesting and powerful manner. Being a retrospective law, it would, he said, enable a slave-owner to claim an escaped slave, no matter how many years his claim might have been waived; and the owner could also claim the children and grandchildren of this slave, as well as any property they might have acquired. The number of slaves escaped into the Northern States, and consequently subject to the operation of this law, was about 70,000. He thanked God that 50,000 or 60,000 more, who were safe in Canada, could not be touched. The consequences of the Bill was that slaves were flocking in large numbers over into Canada in order to escape re-capture. After demonstrating the unhappy influence exercised on the slave system by the purchase in England of slave produce, which purchase, in fact, only rendered the slave owner the agent of the purchaser, Mr. Garnet concluded his speech by urging his audience to purchase and use only the products of free labour.

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