

"Altho I believ that the great body of our southern slaves are perhaps the most contented laborerz in the world, yet there are alwayz some likely to be among them of a very diferent temper, prone to feelingz of resentment, and dispozed to regard their masterz az opresorz, whom it would be no sin, but a virtue to destroy. Instancez hav ocured, in all agez, of the teribl result of pasion and reveng on the part of slaves. The historiez of ancient Greece and Rome are ful of them. In modern tizez, we canot fail to think of St. Domingo; and in the Southern States themselvz, there hav been not a few lamentabl outbreaks which caried horor and mizery in their train. Hence the insecurity, the constant sens of peril, which must atend the posesion of slaves, even under the best of circumstancez. Doubtles, habit may go far to reconcile their ownerz to the danger, and even to make them altogether insensibl to their risk. But I hav met with casez, in my small acquaintans, where it was a source of continual apprehensiveness; and this alone would be a serious objection to the system, if there were no other.

"There iz another danger, however, strongly felt by many Southern gentlmen, derived from the difficulty of maintaining the slaves, in the impoverished condition of the soil, which iz so generally consequent upon slave culture; and this difficulty iz increasing, az the number of the negroes increasez, in a fearful ratio. The Hon. Mr. Shepherd, in the legislature of North Carolina, some yearz ago, put this feature of the case into a powerful argument for abolition, inazmuch az he predicted that the time must come, according to present apearancez, when it would be totally imposibl for the masterz to feed the slaves, and then they would emancipate themselvez of necessity, and scater over the land in the very wildnes of starvation. If this calculation be corect, it acounts satisfactorily, for the anxiety of our southern friendz to extend the area of slavery into new States, where the strength of a virgin soil may enable them to work to advantage. But it also showz the far wizer policy, if posible, of geting rid of the incumbrans altogether.

"The third head of my sugestionz, namely the responsibility which iz inseparabl from the system, outweighs, in my own mind, all the rest. The whole burden of this responsibility rests on the master and the mistres, because the slaves in general, are az thoughtles and careles az children, and need to be watched over and provided for, with a sort of care which is enough, of itself, to wear out the firmest nervz, and break down the strongest spirit of a conscientious guardian. They hav to be taught the principlez of morality and religion, by oral instruction; they hav to be restrained from foly and from sin; their clothing and their dwellingz must be inspected; their amusements and recreationz must be regulated; their temperz towardz each other must be governed; and in sicknes they must be atended by eyes far more watchful than their own, in order to satisfy the feelingz of a Christian. The overseer can be expected to do but littl of all this, for if he looks after them in their hourz of labor, it iz az much az he iz likely to perform, and more than he alwayz performz az he ought for the advantage of the employer. But when theze other duties are discharged towardz a body of a hundred or perhaps several hundred of those simple and dependent creatures, the master and mistres become slaves in a far more painful sens than any of those who are under their control.

"In aid of theze sugestionz, there iz surely a large measure of consideration due to the prejudice and utter oposition to the system, which are manifested by the free States of the Union; for altho I hav endeavored to show how unjust and unreasonabl the character of this oposition has been, yet there iz no ground to hope that time or argument wil lesen it. This might perhaps be expected, if the abolitionists of the United States stood alone; but they are powerfully sustained by the English pres, and the same hatred of slavery iz shared by France, Germany, and most of the other nationz of Europe. Moreover, the spirit of the age iz strongly set towardz every form of human liberty, and one might azwel attempt to check the rizing storm by expostulation, as to put back the onward movement of our times by the force of constitutional law or religious sanction."

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