

### THEY WOULD STAY AT HOME.

The crafty and unscrupulous slave-holders have imbued into the minds of many Northern people, an immense *lie*,—one that terrifies and chills the imagination, and converts men who abstractly hate slavery, into jailors and patrolmen for slave-holders. This lie consists in the assertion, that if the slaves were emancipated, they would stampede to the North by millions. It has so incessantly been reiterated by the slave-holders, and echoed by their tools in the Free States, that it is very difficult to disabuse the public mind. However much people abhor the system of slavery, they still more dread the consequences to themselves, of an avalanche of freed slaves among them. Laboring men imagine themselves elbowed out of employment. Servant girls are told that wenches will exclude them from the kitchen and chamber. Business men apprehend that the jails and poor-houses would be filled with colored vagrants, and the streets swarm with black beggars.

There probably never was a greater falsehood invented and imposed upon mankind than this humbug of an exodus Northward, of the colored population of the South, in the event of emancipation. But it is as difficult to erase this slave-holder's deception from people's minds as to eradicate Canada thistles from the soil. It is strange that the delusion has taken such firm hold on popular belief, when it is notorious that of all races the negro is the least nomadic, and the most attached to the place of his birth. The Indian and the white are fond of changing their locations. They are restless and disposed to roam. But the negro is the very opposite. He has no taste for wandering from place to place. He rarely changes his habitation, save upon compulsion or necessity. The negroes that leave the South and come North, do so to escape continued bondage or to save themselves from being "sold down South." The free negroes in the Slave States very seldom voluntarily emigrate North. Some of the Slave States, such as Arkansas and South Carolina, not

long since passed laws reducing the free blacks to servitude, unless they emigrated. A portion actually chose masters, rather than be exiled to the North; and it was only the alternative of slavery or removal that caused any to come away from so inhospitable a community.

If the negro slave were as little attached to home as the white man or the Indian, a thousand would run off to where one now does. It is this instinctive fondness for the place where childhood was spent, and aversion to wandering, that gives the claimant his strongest hold on the slave. It is not indifference to servitude, but the repugnance to go away from home to a strange country, and especially in the direction of frosts and snows.

The truth is, if the slaves were emancipated to-morrow, by the voluntary act of their masters or by act of Congress, they would remain where they are. They could not be coaxed to come North, and could only be driven away by military force from the "sunny South." That is their native home, and there they will remain rooted to the soil. The only tendency to change would be from the colder border to the warmer cotton States. The frosty winters of Kentucky, Missouri and Virginia, would cause more or less of the freed blacks in those States to seek a more genial clime on the shores of the Gulf.

We are not confined to the example furnished by emancipation in the West Indies, in proof of the assertion that, the negro would remain quietly and peacefully at home. We have abundant proof in our own country, patent to every man's observation. Take the case of Maryland. By the census of 1790 there were 8,043 free colored people, and 103,036 slaves. In 1860 there were 82,490 free blacks, and only 87,188 slaves, showing that not less than 40,000 slaves have been emancipated, and remained in the State. If the pro-slavery story be true, why have not these freed slaves flocked North? Last year a bill was introduced into the Maryland Legislature, by the secessionists, giving the free colored people the choice of banishment or bondage. It was resisted by the Union men, on the ground that the State could not afford to lose so many valuable laborers as would be driven into

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exile by this cruel proposition. The scheme failed. This case proves two things: first, that the negroes greatly prefer staying in the South; second, that they are needed there, and can not be spared by the whites.

But Delaware affords a still stronger testimony of our general proposition that the slave if made free, would remain in the South, unless expelled by the whites, which they can not afford to do.

Period.	Free Blacks.	Slaves.
1790.....	3,899	6,887
1850.....	18,073	2,960
1860.....	20,531	1,793

Here is a slave State wherein the free colored population are twelve times as numerous as the slaves. They exhibit no disposition to leave the State, nor are the whites disposed to drive them away. As in Maryland, they are useful, patient and docile laborers, willing to work for moderate wages, and content with their humble lot.

The District of Columbia furnishes another witness in refutation of the slaveholders's falsehood. Examine these figures:

	Free Colored.	Slaves.
1820.....	4,048	6,377
1850.....	10,659	3,637
1860.....	12,210	3,181

Within forty years the slaves have diminished more than half, while the free negroes have trebled. The country has witnessed no exodus of free negroes from the District of Columbia to the North any more than from Delaware or Maryland, or from any other slave State.

Let the people of the North try to emancipate their minds from the bondage imposed on them by designing slave-mongers, and rise above those clouds of falsehoods to a clearer atmosphere, where the sun of Truth shines unobscured.

Ignorance and error are the main defenses of wrong and evil. Hoary-headed abuses go down when truth sheds its light upon them. The great bulwark of Slavery, consists of Northern public opinion, and that opinion is founded on error. If the truth were clearly understood and believed, this Northern support of the peculiar institution, would be withdrawn, and Slavery would soon pass away, and peace and friendship would fill the land.

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