

Lexington and Yadkin Flag.

VOL. 1.

LEXINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1855.

NO. 15.

Lexington and Yadkin Flag.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
JAMES B. SHELTON.
JAMES A. LONG, Editor.

Terms: \$2 a year, in advance;
\$2.50 after six months, and 3.00 after twelve
months, from date of subscription.

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in the usual style and charged accordingly.

No discount on these rates.

Address of Hon. Thomas Rufin,
OF ALABAMA.

Delivered before the State Agricultural Society
of North Carolina, October 18th, 1855.

The duty has been assigned to me of mak-
ing to this assemblage of our fellow Citiz-
ens the usual annual address on behalf of
the Agricultural Society of North Carolina.
I heartily wish for your sakes, as well as
my own, that it had been allotted to some
other person more competent to instruct or
entertain. But, though reluctantly, I have
undertaken it, that I might, if no other good
should be done, show my concern in the
welfare of the agriculture of North Carolina
and its kindred arts, and my zeal for their
advancement and prosperity, under a confi-
dent assurance, indeed, of the kind consid-
eration of North Carolinians for the imper-
fections of one who, though long unused to
public speaking, is sincerely desirous, in any
way he can, of magnifying to North Caro-
linians their chief calling and office, and
endeavoring to make them satisfied with
their situation here.

In the first place it is fit, that to all here
thanks for their attendance and a hearty
welcome should be tendered. The pur-
poses of the Society and the modes of effecting
them, are generally known; and we invite
the co-operation of all in the good work.
Join in our association. Let every one add
what he can to the general fund of agricul-
tural knowledge. Enter into the competi-
tion for improving tillage, perfecting and in-
creasing the productions of the grains the
grasses, the vegetables, and the fruits of the
earth, our animals and our implements of
husbandry, and other manufactures; and
exhibit here at our Fairs such things as you
have. Indeed, those who bring only them-
selves are very welcome; for, after all, our
men and women are our best productions,
and it can only raise a just pride to see them
gathered together to extend acquaintance,
form friendships, gain and impart knowledge
honor agriculture, and thereby become the
more content with our lot being cast in
North Carolina.

Next, the Agricultural Society owes, and
we ask the agricultural community to join
in making acknowledgements to the Gen-
eral Assembly for the pecuniary aid extend-
ed to the Society. Its usefulness depends
chiefly on its ability to offer and pay pre-
miums to exhibitors to such an amount as
may stimulate competition and multiply ex-
hibitions. A proper amount of premiums
was larger than could be confidently coun-
ted on at all times from the fluctuating and
uncertain contributions of annual subscribers
and visitors of the Fairs; and, since our last
annual meeting, the Society presented to the
Legislature a memorial praying such assist-
ance from the public Treasury as that body
might deem requisite to the advancement of
agriculture and manufactures among us. I
am happy to announce here, that, in com-
pliance with the memorial, a permanent an-
nual appropriation of \$1500 was made for the
payment of premiums, subject only to the
reasonable and politic proviso, that within
the preceding twelve months, the Society
shall have raised the like sum for the same
uses. The appropriation, if not fully ade-
quate to the wants and claims of a people
as agricultural as those of North Carolina,
is yet of great benefit in many respects,
and chiefly as permanently establishing the
Society and Fairs, since it cannot be supposed
that the farmers and mechanics and traders
of the State have hearts so dead to their
duty and interest as to let them fail for want
of contributions on their part to an equal
amount. The present is the first occasion,
since the grant, on which the Society has
had the opportunity of acknowledging this
legislative bounty, and we take much pride
and pleasure in doing so.

Now, it may be asked: Is the agriculture
of North Carolina worthy of this public pat-
nage, and of the efforts of some of her citi-
zens to promote and improve it? I answer,
—yes. North Carolina is entitled to
that every one of her people can do to
promote her prosperity and elevate her
character; and her sons will be amply re-
warded for their efforts for her advan-
tage and their own. Our occupations are
essentially agricultural, and embrace all its
varied pursuits—planting, farming,
breeding of live stock, and the culture of
fruits. Still very recently they were al-
most exclusively agricultural, as there were
natural facilities to foreign commerce, diffi-
cult to come, and but few manufacturing
establishments among us. In both these

respects progress has been made and is mak-
ing; and there is good ground of hope,
that before long, fleets of our own merchant-
men will sail from our shores, richly laden
with our productions for sale or exchange
in the ports of our sister States and foreign
countries; while factories of various kinds
now established in various parts of the
State, will be multiplied beyond any pre-
sent calculation that can be made, not only
for the fabrication of the most useful im-
plements of wood, iron, and other metals, but
for our supply of those fabrics out of the
great Southern staple, cotton, which have
become indispensable. Manufacturers are
already, without doubt, material helps to
agriculture by diversifying employments,
increasing the consumption at home of our
crops and stocks, and supplying on the spot
and without delay many articles needful to
the planter and farmer. In time they will
become a more distinct productive and in-
fluential item in our political economy, but
never, I think, as the rival or foe of our agri-
culture, but as a faithful friend and servant.
As yet, however, the cultivation of the
earth is the great and productive business
of North Carolina. It has made us hither-
to a thriving and happy rural people. We
are still so; and it will make us still more
so, as it becomes improved and more pro-
ductive. Why should not the agriculture
of North Carolina be as improvable and im-
proved, and her sons, engaged in it, as
prosperous and happy as those of any other
country? No reason of weight can be
given in the negative, if we will make the
effort and use the proper means; and of
that every one may be satisfied if he will
observe and reflect on what is around him.

The profits and the comforts of agricul-
ture depend mainly on climate, soil, labor,
and the facilities for disposing of surpluses
of production. The two first, climate and
soil, should be congenial to products requisite
for the sustenance of the husbandman
himself, and in demand for others who can-
not produce for themselves. In both points
North Carolina is highly blessed. In her
position on the globe she occupies that tem-
perate and happy mean, which is conducive
to health and the vigorous exertion of the
faculties and energies of body and mind,
in employments tending more than all others
to the hospitalities and charities of life
and the other virtues of the heart, and which
constitutes a climate, that, in unison with
her fertile soil yields abundantly to the dili-
gent tiller nearly all the necessities and
many of the luxuries required by man. We
do not work barely to maintain life; but, be-
yond that, to realise gains that may be em-
ployed in the addition of other things pro-
ductive of the elevation and refinement of
civilized man. Our winters by their dura-
tion and rigor, do not confine us long with-
in doors, nor cause us to consume the pro-
duction of our labor during the other parts
of the year; but we are able to prosecute
our productive employments during the four
seasons. Though not of such extent of lati-
tude as thereby to create much variety of
climate, and consequently of production; yet,
the dimensions of North Carolina east and
west supply that deficiency in a remark-
able degree. The proximity to the ocean
of her eastern coast, and the difference in el-
evation between that and the mountains of
the west, with the gradations in the inter-
mediate regions, produces a diversity of ge-
nial climate which gives to North Carolina,
within herself, the advantage of many coun-
tries conjointly. By nature, too, her soil
was as diversified and as excellent as her
climate. The rich alluvial of the east, the
extended and extremely fertile valleys of the
many long streams—the Roanoke, the Tar,
The Neuse, the Cape Fear, the Yadkin and
Pedee, the Catawba and other rivers, which
appear upon our map, besides those of
smaller streams, almost numberless, all, at
a moderate expense of care and labor, re-
turn large yields of nearly every grain and
other production fit for food. Rice, maize,
wheat, rye, barley, oats, the pea, the potato
of each kind, besides an endless variety of
other sorts, vegetables, and fruits, are found
abundantly therein; while higher up the
country, in addition the grasses grow so
readily and luxuriantly as to afford not lit-
tle plots on the moist bottoms of brooks,
but extensive pastures and magnificent mead-
ows to the mountain tops. Then, there are
the great articles of cotton and tobacco, so
extensively used and in such great and in-
creasing demand—to one or the other of
which the greater part of the State is emi-
nently suited. Of fruits, melons of every
kind and of the best qualities, apples,
peaches, pears, cherries, nectarines and ap-
ricots flourish almost every where, as do
also the smaller but most valuable kinds, as
the strawberry, the raspberry, gooseberry,
and, above all, our native grapes, the sweet
and prolific scuppernon, and the rich cat-
awba, which mature well, besides some of
foreign origin. When to these we add the
fish, with which our eastern waters abound
through the year, but are alive in the spring
—our naval stores and lumber, our marls,
our minerals, gold silver copper, and espe-
cially the extensive and rich deposits of iron
ore, and the coal, one may confidently ask,
is there any other country which contains
or produces more or a greater diversity of
things to produce life or to bring money?
—and then let me enquire of you, North
Carolinians, what better country do you
want than your own? I hold that it is
good enough—too good, I am tempted to
say, for sinful man. It requires to be only
dressed and tilled to give nearly all we
want on earth, and much for our fellow man
much less happily situated. There may at
some time be a stint below our usual abun-
dant; but we need never fear a famine here
while we work. Indeed, that calamity can
hardly befall a country where maize—which
we call Indian corn—grows to perfection.
There is no record of a dearth approaching
famine, where the principle crop was
maize, as it is here. Our climate and soil

are so congenial to the other cereals, that a
failure of that crop from an unpropitious
season is necessarily perceived in time to
provide the others, or some of them as a
substitute.

Such is North Carolina! Here she is,
and let any man say, who can, whether she
be not in every thing as she has now been
held up to him. Then, why should any
leave her? I trust the period of her peo-
ple's deserting her and seeking—what they
never found—a better place, is near its end,
and that they will cleave to her and exult
in her by uniting in an effort to render her,
by increased fertility, yet more teeming in her
productions, and to embellish her with dur-
able and tasteful habitations, gardens and
lawns, with substantial farm houses, with
orchards and every other thing that can
make her beautiful in our eyes and fasten
our affections on her. True, the soil is not
what it once was, and our task is not mere-
ly to preserve fertility, but, in a great de-
gree to restore that which has been more
or less exhausted. We must not blame our
ancestors too hastily or too severely, for the
system under which the rich vegetable loam
they found here was so used up. The labors
and hardships of settling a wild country
leave but little opportunity for more than
preparing for cultivation and cropping such
parts of the land as are absolutely necessary
for maintaining the colony. Land was in
plenty—timber an incumbrance, and labor
scarce and costly; so that, in reality, it
was cheaper, and the sounder economy in
them to bring new fields with their exceed-
ing superficial fertility into culture, rather
than manure those which they had reduced
by imperfect tillage and scouring cropping.
Throughout America the land suffered by
the exhausting operations of the settlers and
their descendants for several generations;
but that can only go on to a certain extent,
and then it must stop. When getting to be
so reduced as not to pay for cultivation,
necessity forbids a further reduction of the
soil, and then the process of regeneration
begins. At first it proceeds slowly; but
every degree of improvement furnishes
means for still greater, and accordingly it
increases its pace, and by improved culture,
manures, rotation of crops, and the like, it
ends in productiveness beyond its original
capacity.

If not the lowest, certainly to a very low
condition, much of the land in the State had
been brought; and the time came, when, if
improvement was ever to be made, it would
be commenced. I use the expression, "the
time came" instead of "has come," because
it is a joyful fact, that some persons in
various parts of the State, may in some
parts, have improved, and continue to im-
prove their lands and increase their crops
—profiting much therefrom in their fortunes
and setting the rest of us examples by what
we ought also to profit. We have all heard
for some years past, that the era of improve-
ment had begun in the great and wealthy
county of Edgecombe; and I learn from
unquestionable sources, that the intelligent
and enterprising planters of that county
have been rewarded by signal success. I
do not propose to enter into a detail of their
system further than to say, that it consists
chiefly in draining by ditches and embank-
ments, making and applying composts, the
use of guano and plaster of Paris, and the
field-pea as an ameliorating crop, as well
as food for stock. I advise every one, how-
ever, who has the opportunity, by minute
enquiries to obtain from those who have put
this system into use, detailed information
respecting it; and I feel no hesitation in
preferring a request to the planters of Edge-
combe, as public-spirited gentlemen, to com-
municate through our agricultural period-
icals, the history of their improvements, and
their experiments—as well as those in which
they failed as those in which they suc-
ceeded, with all other matters which may
be useful to their brethren in other sections.

In other parts of the country, with which
I am more intimately acquainted, much im-
provement has been made to my knowledge.
Of the counties ranging along our northern
border, from Warren to Stokes, inclusive, I
have had for about fifty years considerable
knowledge. That was the principal region
of the tobacco culture. According to the
cause of that culture, wherever it prevailed
in our early annals, the country was cut
down rapidly, cropped mercilessly with a
view to a quantity rather than quality, then
put into corn, and exhausted quickly and
almost entirely. When I first knew it, and
for a long time afterwards, there were abun-
dant evidences of former fertility, and ex-
isting, and sorrowful sterility. Corn and
tobacco and oats were almost the only crops.
But little wheat and no cultivated grasses
were to be seen in the country. Warren
and Granville bought the little flour they
used from Orange wagons. Large tracts
were disfigured by galls and frightful gul-
lies, turned out as "old fields," with broom-
straw and old-field pines for their only ves-
ture, instead of their stately primitive for-
ests, or rich crops for the use of man. This
is a sad picture. But it is a true one; and
there was more fact than figure in the say-
ing by many, whose work of destruction
rendered that region so desolate, and who
then abandoned it, that it was "old and
worn out." Happily, some thought its con-
dition not so hopeless, and, cherishing their
attachment for the spots of their nativity,
within these few years—since the time of
river navigation and railroads began—set
about repairing the ravages of former days.
Do you suppose they were content with
less crops, and therefore that they cultiva-
ted less than before, leaving a larger area to
natural recovery by rest? That was not
their course. They did not give up the cul-
ture of tobacco, but greatly increased it, and
corn also; and they added to their rotation,
wheat, when so much more easily and
cheaply carried to market. But they great-
ly increased the collection and application
of manures from the stables, and the cattle

yards, with considerable additions of the
concentrated manures obtained from abroad,
and protected the land from washing by
judicious hill-side trenching and more thor-
ough plowing. The result has been, that
many old-fields have been reclaimed and
brought into cultivation, that lands gener-
ally much increased in fertility, and of course
in actual and market value in the like pro-
portion, while the production has, probably,
doubled in quantity and value in all the
range of counties mentioned. Such exam-
ples are honorable to those who set them,
and useful to others, who desire to improve.
For that reason I have thought it proper
thus to signalize them, as I would gladly do
others, which may, and I hope do exist,
were I as well aware of them; contenting
myself with adding only that I think I see
the dawn of a better day in the county of
my own residence and those contiguous.—
For our present purpose, it is sufficient that
we can hence learn that the effects of the
most injudicious and destructive cropping
may be repaired by good husbandry, in the
use of fertilizers saved on the farm, and
others, which are becoming better known,
and more attainable than formerly; and that
all the outlay will be more than reimbursed
at a short day by the increase of products,
besides enhancing the value of real estate.
Thus will our agriculture be rendered as
pleasing and profitable as that of the most
favored portions of the earth.

Then let me say once more to you, men
of North Carolina, stick to her, and make
her what she can be and ought to be. For
you and your sons she will yield a rich har-
vest: to some thirty fold, some sixty fold,
and some a hundred fold," according to the
skill and diligence with which the tillage
of the good ground is done.

The nature of the labour employed in our
agriculture is the next subject for our con-
sideration. It is a most important element
in the cost, amount, and value of production.
I very frankly avow the opinion that our
mixed labor of free white men of European
origin and slaves of the African race, is as
well adapted to the public and private ends
of our agriculture as any other could be—
making our cultivation not less thorough,
cheap, and productive than it would be, if
carried on by the whites alone, and far
more so than the blacks by themselves
would make it; and, therefore, that it has
a beneficial influence on the prosperity of the
country, and the physical and moral state
of both races, rendering both better and
happier than either would be here, without
the other. Of course, I am not about enter-
ing into that controversy which has connect-
ed itself with the contentions of sectional
factions, struggling for political power. It
is unnecessary that I should; for every one
is aware, I believe of the nature of the con-
troversy and the motives of the parties to it.
It is one of the conservative effects of slav-
ery to impress on us a deep conviction of the
inestimable value of the Union, and a pro-
found reverence for the Constitution which
created it; and hence we habitually cherish
a good feeling, as of brethren, towards our
fellow-citizens of every State, and any deed
or word tending to impair the perpetuity of
the Union and the efficacy of the Constitu-
tion and the laws passed in accordance
with it, or to alienate the affections of the
different States from each other, is seen
with impatience and frowned on with indig-
nation. Indeed, if there were any thing in
slavery or the interests connected with it
incompatible with that fundamental law, I
doubt not that our people would willingly
abide by that sacred instrument, though it
should cut off a right hand or pluck out a
right eye. But there will be no occasion
for a display of our loyalty in that respect,
since the Constitution clearly recognizes
our slavery, sustains the rights of owner-
ship, and enforces the duty of service; and
I am persuaded, that the obligation of those
provisions and their execution will be ulti-
mately pronounced and carried out by those
on whom the Constitution itself confers the
authority. My purpose now, however, is
merely to maintain that slavery here is fa-
vorable to the interests of agriculture in
point of economy and profit, and not un-
wholesome to the moral and social condi-
tion of each race. In support of the first
part of the proposition, a decisive argument
is furnished by the fact that the amount and
value of the productions of slave labor in
this country exceeds those of similar pro-
ductions, nay, of all other agricultural pro-
ductions, of an equal number of men in any
other country, as far as they can be ascer-
tained. In some localities, indeed, and in
respect to some articles of great value, the
production would cease, with slavery; since
the blacks by the constitutions inherited
from their African ancestors, can labor with-
out detriment, under degrees of heat, mois-
ture, and exposure, which are found to be
fatal to the whites, whose systems are bet-
ter adapted to different conditions of the at-
mosphere. In truth, if the free men in those
States in which slavery prevails be allowed
credit for common sense and the capacity
to understand their own wants and interests,
the utility of the employment of slave labor
and its productiveness are established be-
yond controversy, simply by the fact, that it
is done. Men who are thoroughly versed
in the practical operation of any institution,
certainly will not, to their own prejudice,
uphold it from generation to generation, and
cling the closer to it as by its natural exten-
sion it becomes more and more destructive.
If it be said that the continuance of slavery
does not prove its utility to the Common-
wealth, because it was continued of necessity,
and would have been, however impolit-
ic it might be found, we must owe some
force in the suggestion, by itself, since at all
times after its introduction it would have
been difficult to get rid of it, and that diffi-
culty has been continually increasing.

Africans and bring them here, than for us,
without crime yet more heinous, to renounce
our dominion over them and turn them loose
to their own discretion and self destruction.
Their fate would soon be that of our native
savages, or the enfranchised blacks of the
West Indies, the miserable victims of ill-
ness, want, drunkenness and other debauch-
eries. But the argument goes only to show
that we would have done right—even though
enforced thereto by the necessity spoken of
—in still holding these people in bondage.
It is far from showing that slavery would
not have been and ought not to have been
maintained, though there had been no hypo-
thetical necessity in doing so. Furthermore,
there are many numerous facts to prove a
clear opinion to the contrary in every class
of our population. When did any man, for
example, leave North Carolina in order to
get clear of his slaves or slavery? We have
indeed a respectable and peaceful religious
society—less numerous than formerly—who
are forbidding by an article in their creed
from holding man in slavery. Even they
never warred or contended against this in-
stitution here, nor sought to seduce or spirit
away their neighbor's slaves; but like the
quiet and Christian men they professed to be
they left us, and immigrated chiefly to the
States of the North-West, in which slavery
did not exist. With that slight exception,
the public sentiment is so generally satisfied
with the existence of slavery and its propi-
ety here, that it may properly be called uni-
versal. Some men have emancipated
some or all of their slaves by sending them
to other States. But I know not of an in-
stance in which the former owner went
with them, or left North Carolina because
other owners would not follow their exam-
ple. On the contrary, when our slave-hold-
ers remove, they carry their slaves with
them further south, where slavery is, if pos-
sible, more firmly fixed than here, because
they expect the labor of the slaves to be
more productive. Besides, there are many
inhabitants in this State who do not
hold slaves, some from choice and some
from inability to purchase them, and never-
theless, they are content to abide among us
and our slaves. And it is also true, that
when these men migrate, much the larger
part of them likewise go to the South of us,
in the thick of slavery, because they hope
to make a greater profit from their own ex-
ertions. These facts, which cannot be de-
nied, will bear reflection, and furnish evi-
dence sufficient to satisfy any fair mind that
there is an unanimous conviction of our
people that slavery, as it exists here, is nei-
ther unprofitable, nor impolitic, nor un-
wholesome. For certainly, though slave-
holders, we may claim to possess as clear
understandings, and as clear consciences as
generally fall to the lot of men.

It would, indeed, be otherwise, if it were
true, as supposed or set forth by some, that
slavery degrades free labor, and, consequen-
tly, that our population are too proud or too
lazy to work, and become, especially slave
owners, dissolute and profligate in morals,
as well as atrocious tyrants. But that is not
true—not at all true; and there never was a
greater mistake than to suppose it true. It
cannot but excite a smile on us, who know
the contrary so well, when we are told that
white men do not work here, and that they
do not because it is considered disgraceful.
Why, there is not a country on earth in
which honest labor and diligence in business
in all classes and conditions, is considered
more respectable, or is more respected. We
like every other people, have the idle and
the vicious amongst us. But they are chief-
ly those who have the least connexion with
slaves, and particularly those employed in
agriculture, and are to be found, without
means, lounging about cities and villages.
Many most independent farmers, who own
slaves, but not enough to make their super-
intendence full employment, work, they and
their sons, with their slaves; and it is sure,
that no one here ever treated them or thought
of them as disgraced by it. Indeed, every
one, who by intelligence, integrity, and in-
dustry, provides for himself and his house-
hold either in the field or at the forge, or
any other mechanical pursuit, is as highly
respected here, as in every other well or-
dered community; and many of them are of
great and useful influence in society.

It is a mistake, too, equally notable, that
slaveholders are above or exempt from the
cares and the business of life; and it is a
gross calumny to represent them as the
ruthless and relentless tyrants, of whom
some persons delight to draw over-charged
and exaggerated caricatures. Although the
labor of a large slaveholder is not manual,
yet it is not the less engrossing and onerous;
and the feelings between masters and their
slaves in the great bulk of our population is
kindly on the part of the former, and affec-
tionately faithful on the part of the latter.
Slavery, indeed, is not a pure and unmixed
good. Nor is any thing that is human.—
There are instances of cruel and devilish
masters, and of turbulent and refractory
slaves, who cannot be controlled and brought
into subjection but by extraordinary severity.
But these are exceptions, and rare ex-
ceptions. Great severity in masters is as
much opposed to the usages of our people
as to the sentiment of the age, and, indeed,
to the interest of the master. Moderation
in the punishment of dependents is founded
in nature; and unjust, excessive, and bar-
barous cruelty is not to be presumed, but
quite the contrary. The meek man who
led the Israelites through the wilderness, and
legislated for them by inspiration, under-
stood this better than those who paint us so
frightfully, without knowing much about us.
In treating of the different degrees of homi-
cide, he had regard to the known motives
of the human heart, and thereon founded the
presumption, that the slaying of a slave by
the master, is by misadventure, "because he
is his money," unless it should be rebuked by
such excess in the degree or duration of the
infliction as to make him "die under his hand,"

and thus evince that discipline was a pretence,
and the killing of designed malignity or
wanton brutality. I appeal to every one, if
our experience is not in accordance with the
divine statute. The same motive induces
the master to be observant of the health and
morals of his slaves; to care for them, and
provide for them; to restrain them from
baneful excesses, and employ them in mode-
rate though steady labor. That this is the
course—the established habit of the slave-
holding portion of the country, is plainly to
be deduced from an increase in the numbers
of our slave population beyond the ratio of
natural increase in the population of any
other nation; which could only arise from
the abundant supply of the necessities and
comforts of life, and a contented state of
mind.

But the interest of the owner is not the
only security to the slave for humane treat-
ment; there is a stronger tie between them.
Often born on the same plantation, and bred
together, they have a perfect knowledge of
each other, and a mutual attachment, and
protection and provision are the offices of the
master, and in return the slave yields de-
voted obedience and fidelity of service; so
that they seldom part but from necessity.—
The comfort, cheerfulness, and happiness of
the slave should be, and generally is, the
study of the master; and every Christian
master rejoices over the soul of his slave
saved, as of a brother, and allows of his at-
tendance on the ministry of God's word
and sacraments, in any church of his choice
in his vicinity. The condition of a slave
denies to him, indeed, opportunities of edu-
cation sufficient for searching the Scrip-
tures for himself, and working thereof his
own conversion; but God forbid that should
be necessary to salvation! It is not; for to
the poor and the unlettered the Christian
graces are promised and given in an espe-
cial manner because they have less pride of
intellect, more simplicity of faith, and more
singleness of heart; and among the slaves
of this country there are many exemplary
Christians. Indeed, slavery in America has
not only done more for the civilization and
enjoyments of the African race than all
other causes, but it has brought more of
them into the Christian fold than all the
missions to that benighted continent from
the Advent to this day have, or probably,
those for centuries to come would expect
only the recent Colonies of blacks on the
western coast of Africa, by which one may
hope and believe that under divine direction
the lights of civilization and the knowledge
of the true God may be reflected back on
that whole land. Such are some of the
beneficial effects on that race of their connexion
with us. Upon the slaveholder the impres-
sions are not less distinctly durable, nor less
beneficial. He is habitually a man of em-
ployment. As in military life he must
train his troop to their duties, lay out their
work, and superintend its execution; and
by a mild and just, though firm discipline,
reward and punish according to their des-
erts; and he must never fail in sympathy
with regard to innocent enjoyments at prop-
er times, and their needs in sickness and in
health. Sometimes matters—very trivial
in themselves—have exceedingly great ef-
fect in improving the slave and uniting him
to his owner. I know a gentleman, one of
the most successful planters, who produced
a marked change for the better among his
slaves, by the small boon of a cheap look-
ing-glass for each of their quarters. Another
bound his people to him by a devoted af-
fection, by joining with solemnity in their
processions at the burial of their dead, in a
grave yard which he had protected by a
plain post and plank enclosure.

It is a great error in those who do not know
our slavery, to confound authority in the
private relations, though it be that of a
slave-owner, with the absolute power of a
prince on the throne. A political despot is
separated from his subjects. He knows
them not nor loves them. He sympathises
with none of them, but their positions and
feelings are in constant hostility. But au-
thority in domestic life, though not neces-
sarily, is naturally considerate, mild, easy to
be entreated and tends to an elevation in
the superior which generates a human kind-
ness for these in his power, and renders
him regardful alike of the duty and the dig-
nity of his position. It is only when the
authority is disputed and resisted, that a
conflict occurs; and the slaves, if kept to
themselves, unprompted from without, will
seldom give occasion in that way for rigor.
Why should this propitious state of things
be changed? Why should any wish a
change? Especially, why should persons
who have no concern in it, who are not of
us, and know not what they do, officially
interfere in a relation so entirely do-
mestic and delicate? We know that our
slaves are generally humble, obedient and
quiet—a contented and cheerful race of la-
borers. Scattered over the plantations in
rural occupations, they are not riotous or
dangerous, as the same number of unedu-
cated working men have often been in other
parts of the country. Slaves are no part
of the State, with no political power, and
seek no violent or sudden changes in the
law or policy of the country; and where
slavery exists labor and capital never come in
conflict, for they are in the same hands, and
operate in harmony. It is not, then, a blot
upon our laws, nor a stain on our morals,
nor a blight upon our land. A signal in-
stance of our beneficial political influence
just occurs to me, to which I cannot refrain
from asking your attention. The sad fate
of the Indian tribes in the territories, now
forming the United States, is familiar to
every one. With the exception of a few
small remnants, seated among the whites,
as a degraded caste, in one or two of the
northern States, all belong to that region
are extinct. They had no separate property,
and therefore they never engaged in the
pursuits of civil life, and could not be civi-
lized. They were killed up in wars with