

Mr. H.H. Garnet then came forward, and, after making some lengthened observations on the Fugitive Slave Bill and its cruel operations, which he instanced by referring to several cases which had been brought to his notice, he thus proceeded:—In coming to this country, by the invitation of some of the staunchest friends of freedom, and especially by those who had looked with pity upon the wretched condition of his unfortunate brethren, he did not come in order to convince them that American slavery, or any other kind of slavery, was wrong, for he would not insult the good sense of Englishmen by supposing for a moment there was any necessity for doing so; but he came to ask of Britain's sons to pronounce calmly, in the light of Christianity and humanity, upon the relation in which they stood towards the American slavery system. Having, then, abolished slavery in their own possessions abroad, having thus stood out upon an eminence, high above all other nations, in favour of immediate emancipation, this country was in an eligible position to do still more good, and to hasten, more speedily than any other, the final destruction of that inhuman and diabolical system. If, then, they wished to destroy slavery, they must touch the slaveholder's pocket. Why was it that the African slave-trade had increased instead of diminished, after all the exertions made to put it down? Because there had been a constant and increased demand for slave-grown productions in the British market. Let there be a demand for free-labour produce, and the cause would cease; let the public move first, and all the great firms who supplied the country must follow as a matter of course. Let the ladies take it into their hands. Let them reject all articles that were the produce of slave-labour; let them keep on asking for free-labour goods, and they might depend upon it the shop-keepers would supply them, some from motives of humanity, others from motives of interest, and others as the only means of getting rid of an annoyance. He did not speak figuratively when he said, that the cotton which we used, the sugar with which we sweetened our tea, and the rice which we ate, were actually spread with the sweat of the slaves, sprinkled with their tears, and fanned by their sighs, whilst the brutal driver goaded them to desperation, until an early grave relieved them from their misery. Could we then consent to give power to the arm that whirled the lash, and help to drive the iron into the soul of the poor bondsman?

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