

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN MAGAZINE AND REVIEW.

Vol. II.]

CHARLESTON, S. C., JULY, 1845.

[No. 1.]

SLAVERY.*

As there is no subject more closely interwoven with the political and social well-being of the southern and south-western States of this confederacy, than that of slavery, so there will probably be no time, from the present moment to the settlement of this important question, more suitable than now, to awaken the public mind to the discussion of it. We have no hope, and we might add, no desire, of producing any result worth the labor, abroad. We are taught by the history of our race, that fanaticism has always been beyond the reach of reason, and as "you might as well attempt to paint a sound," as endeavor to convince an abolitionist that slavery is not an evil, we will address ourselves to those alone, who are, or who ought to be interested in this question, let it reach or affect whom it may. Happily for us, it is not necessary that we should feel any very great solicitude about the opinions of others on this subject, for though we are willing that this contest should be decided by truth alone, yet we are fully competent to use other weapons in defence of our institutions. We are fortunately not in the condition of the British West India Islands, before the Emancipation Act, where this great question may be decided by the influence of fanaticism, or commercial rivalry, or mere government policy. Slavery has been engrafted upon our institutions for good or for evil, and we have its destinies in our own hands.

In discussing this subject, we choose to call it by its true name. It has often offended us in the sharpest degree, to hear a "robustious, periwig-pated fellow," in alluding to slavery in the southern portion of this confederacy, with a squeamishness unworthy of manhood, term it "our peculiar institution," as if he were ashamed of it. If slavery is wrong, why defend it? And if it is not, why be ashamed of it? We dislike the expression besides, because it is untrue. Pe-

* Tracts Nos. 6, 7 and 8. Published by the New-England Anti-Slavery Tract Association. J. W. Aden, Publishing Agent: Boston.