

and every citizen may freely speak, write, and print, on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty.” The Declaration of Rights of Mississippi declares that “no law shall ever be passed to curtail or restrain the liberty of speech, and of the press.” The constitutions of all the slave States contain declarations and provisions like these. How fearfully have the descendants of those who framed them degenerated in their comprehension and practice of liberty, violating both the spirit and the letter of their original Bill of Rights! They are not yet fully aware of this. In the calmer times which are to come, they will perceive it, and look back with amazement upon the period of desperation, when not a voice was heard, even in the legislatures, to plead for human rights; when, for the sake of one doomed institution, they forgot what their fathers had done, fettered their own presses, tied their own hands, robbed their fellow-citizens of their right of free travelling, and did all they could to deprive those same fellow-citizens of liberty and life, for the avowal and promulgation of opinions.

Meantime, it would be but decent to forbear all boasts of a superior knowledge and love of freedom.

Here I gladly break off my dark chapter on the Morals of Slavery.



A POSTSCRIPT FROM THE EDITORS

And here we have, as if to vindicate Martineau on many of her points, an item printed in the July 28, 1837 issue of the *Natchez, Mississippi, Weekly Courier and Journal*, commenting on her recently published book, *Society in America*:

Morals of Slavery

HENRY A. WISE.

From a late London Paper.

The people of the United States need not be very angry about the infamous libels which Miss Martineau has heaped upon their press, and upon some features of American life, in her new work entitled "Society in America." This female, who always chooses to write upon subjects which men only can understand, and that women cannot with decency discuss, alleges that she had a better opportunity than most travellers of collecting accurate information relative to manners and customs in the great Trans Atlantic Republic, because she is deaf, and carries a most excellent and very large ear trumpet; but with occasionally a gleam of good sense, her work abounds in illogical conclusions, false philosophy, palpable contradictions, and downright nonsense. The everlasting old lady pamphleteered the English people till they would swallow her crudities no longer; but under the patronage of Lord Brougham her diatribes against the Poor Laws, her Malthusian twaddle about a surplus population, and her detestable doctrines upon "a moral check to matrimony," have done an immense deal of mischief here. It is to this female that we, in a great measure, owe the atrocious Whig "Amendment" of the Poor Laws, with its brutal Bastille "dictary tables," and the separation, in direct opposition to the express command of God, of husbands from their wives, and mothers from their children. We perceive that she now denounces the American people because women have no hand in the making of the laws. She would have, it would appear, the wives and daughters of American citizen, invited to engage in all the turmoil, speechification and drunkenness of contested elections; and it would even seem that, according to this lady-like scribbler upon which she is profoundly ignorant, women ought to be returned as Members of Congress! Heaven knows, the gentle creatures exercise influence enough in these matters, without being dragged forward in person. At a contested election, "the lady's man" generally carries the day.

WASHINGTON AND BONAPARTE

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