

Mr. Calhoun Right and Wrong.

Amazed as our merchants, lawyers, professors, doctors, politicians, &c. &c. throughout the Free States must have been at Mr. Calhoun's accusation that the North has been conspiring and working against Slavery through the last forty years, there is yet a truth at the bottom of it. In the sense contemplated by Mr. Calhoun, it is not true, nor anything like it. Our Northern colleges have baited their hooks alluringly for Southern students, (white ones only;) our Northern merchants, &c. for Southern (slaveholding) custom; our Northern aspirants here looked languishingly toward the patronage in the gift of Southern Presidents, and 'roared you as gently as any sucking dove' against 'Southern institutions'—some of them going the length of recasting their published opinions and suppressing all of them that seemed likely to offend the South. Congress has repeatedly denounced and curbed all manner of interference by Northern spirit with Southern servitude, passing resolutions to abridge the privilege of remonstrance against Slavery, none to extend it. The South has had all that Law could give her of protection against 'fanatics,' and where statute-law failed, mob-law has been often invoked with decided efficiency.—No noted Abolitionist has ever been appointed to any important station under the Federal Government, while ultra pro-Slavery men have generally been in high favor at the White House. Yet after all we are told by Mr. Calhoun that the North—in spite of the recorded facts touching the successive acquisitions of Louisiana, Florida, Texas, and the Lower Rio Grande—in spite even of the War on Mexico—has all the time been sapping and undermining 'Southern rights!'

—Yet Mr. Calhoun is not entirely wrong. The Stars in their courses fought against Sisera—small blame or merit to them!—they shone, and could not help it. The North, while sedulously courting and conceding to the Slave Power, has really been sapping the foundation of Slavery. Ohio beside Kentucky, Illinois contrasted with Missouri, Wisconsin the janitor of Arkansas—all the history and progress of the Free West has been a continual warfare upon Human Bondage. Wherever the smoke of a free laborer's cabin has arisen from any portion of the Western wilds, there has gone up a testimony of the injustice and a presage of the doom of Slavery. Wherever a man has gone forth upon the lonely prairie to hew out for himself and his babes a home and a subsistence by the strength of his arms, the sweat of his brow, there has arisen an anti-Slavery post, which henceforth must be felt in the decline and the downfall of Human chattelhood. The squatter may be as empty-headed or wrong-headed as he can—may spend his evenings in bar-rooms execrating Abolitionists—but if he gives his days to useful toil he is preaching an anti-Slavery harangue more potent than that of any of the wandering declaimers against Cuffee's wrongs whom he is fool enough to hunt from the school-house with bad language and worse eggs. The law of gravitation refuses to be set aside by even so subtle a logician as Mr. Calhoun, and Free Labor will not continue to plow in the same yoke with Slavery, no matter what inherited prejudice or party discipline may impel it for a time to say. The only effectual, abiding guarantee of peace and security to Slavery in the South would be a reduction of the Free Labor of the North to a kindred condition with the working chattels of 'our Southern brethren.' No amendment of the Constitution that did not effect that end would enduringly subserve Mr. Calhoun's purpose, and that is probably rather more than even he could hope to accomplish. His case, then, is manifestly past surgery.