

### **An Historical Contrast.**

Mr. Stephens, Vice-President of the Southern Confederacy, the ablest exponent of its principles, in his recent speech published by us on the 27th ult., tells us that the basis of Southern civilization is negro slavery—that to confirm its *status* was the immediate cause of the recent rupture and the present revolution. He goes on to trace the change in the public sentiment of the South from the conviction universally entertained by the founders of our Government, who looked confidently forward to the final disappearance of Slavery under the workings of the benign principles which they inaugurated. All their notions about the evils or false economy of the system, he further tells us, were due to mistaken philanthropy, and have fully exploded the material prosperity and moral elevation of the South. All who adhere to the doctrines of Jefferson and his compeers, are fanatics with whom the South for the future desire neither part nor lot. For the purpose of testing the correctness of his assumption of the superior value of slavery to freedom, we propose to institute a brief historical parallel between the progress of the two sections whose institutions so widely differ as to have parted them asunder, confining ourselves in this article to the relative increase in numbers and political power.

At the enumeration following immediately upon the formation of the Government, the population of the country was equally divided between the two sections—that of the Northern States being 1,968,458; of the Southern, 1,961,372. Their respective areas were 166,358 square miles for the former, and 296,335 for the latter. Never was a race commenced between parties more equally matched. Slavery existed in every State but one. If there was any advantage it was on the side of the South, which had a much greater area, and a more genial climate. As the population of this section expanded, further room was secured by the acquisition of Louisiana and Florida—For the first thirty years the two sections were neck and neck. In the meantime their respective tendencies began to manifest themselves. The Northern States, true to the doctrines of the fathers, one after another abolished Slavery. This kind of labor was no longer suited to their industry, in which labor was valuable just in proportion to the intelligence with which it was guided. As population increases, in ratio to the productiveness of industry, in other words, to the abundance of the means of subsistence supplied, the advantage of the Northern States soon became apparent, showing the superiority of their social organization. The following is a table of the population of each section at the several enumerations, with the excess in the Northern States at the close of each decade:

| Decades.  | Population<br>Nor'n States. | Population<br>Sou'n States. | Excess in<br>Nor'n States. |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1790..... | 1,968,458                   | 1,961,372                   | 7,086                      |

|           |            |            |           |
|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 1800..... | 2,683,652  | 2,621,296  | 72,355    |
| 1810..... | 3,738,065  | 3,501,769  | 236,316   |
| 1820..... | 5,152,292  | 4,485,839  | 666,463   |
| 1830..... | 7,018,627  | 5,848,293  | 1,170,334 |
| 1840..... | 9,728,922  | 7,334,451  | 2,394,491 |
| 1850..... | 13,527,220 | 9,654,656  | 3,872,564 |
| 1860..... | 19,124,768 | 12,305,123 | 6,819,645 |

The ratio of increase of *whites* in the Northern and Southern States for each decade, is shown in the following tables:

#### NORTHERN STATES.

| Decades.  | Total Number. | Increase each<br>Ten Years. | Per Cent.<br>of Increase. |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1790..... | 1,968,455     |                             |                           |
| 1800..... | 2,683,552     | 7,15,197                    | 36.9                      |
| 1810..... | 3,738,065     | 1,054,413                   | 40.4                      |
| 1820..... | 5,152,292     | 1,414,227                   | 37.7                      |
| 1830..... | 7,018,627     | 1,866,335                   | 36.0                      |
| 1840..... | 9,728,922     | 2,710,295                   | 39.1                      |
| 1850..... | 13,527,220    | 3,798,293                   | 32.4                      |
| 1860..... | 19,124,768    | 5,597,548                   | 41.5                      |

#### SOUTHERN STATES.

| Decades.  | Total number. | Increase each<br>Ten Years. | Rate of<br>Increase. |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1790..... | 1,271,488     |                             | 33.9                 |
| 1800..... | 1,703,980     | 431,492                     | 33.9                 |
| 1810..... | 2,308,785     | 505,805                     | 29.7                 |
| 1820..... | 2,831,560     | 522,775                     | 29.2                 |
| 1830..... | 3,662,606     | 831,046                     | 29.3                 |
| 1840..... | 4,800,096     | 1,146,491                   | 26.5                 |
| 1850..... | 6,412,604     | 1,603,508                   | 34.2                 |
| 1860..... | 8,355,566     | 1,942,061                   | 30.3                 |

The rate of increase of population in the Northern States the past decade, was 41½ per cent. on a population of 13,527,220. In the Southern, 27½ on a population of 9,654,656. At a similar ratio, the North in 1870 will have a population of 27,060,466—the South 15,688,269. In 1880 the North will have 37,752,710 inhabitants; the South 18,875,847. In 1890 the North will have 53,042,642, the South 25,381,379. In other words, the North, by the superior character of its industries, will in one hundred years from the formation of the Government have more than double the population of the South, although both started from the premises.



The influence of intelligence upon increase in numbers is most perfectly illustrated at the South. That of the more ignorant class, the slaves, increases the slowest. The number of this class at each enumeration, with the percentage of the same for each decade, is shown in the following table:

| Decades.  | Total No. of<br>Slaves. | Inc. in each<br>ten years. | Rate of<br>increase. |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1790..... | 697,887                 |                            |                      |
| 1800..... | 893,041                 | 195,144                    | 27.9                 |
| 1810..... | 1,191,364               | 298,313                    | 33.4                 |
| 1820..... | 1,538,041               | 346,674                    | 29.0                 |
| 1830..... | 2,009,643               | 471,095                    | 30.6                 |
| 1840..... | 2,487,555               | 478,413                    | 23.8                 |
| 1850..... | 3,200,364               | 717,859                    | 28.9                 |
| 1860..... | 3,949,557               | 749,103                    | 23.4                 |

The ratio of increase of white in the sections, and of slaves, since 1790, have been as follows:

| Northern States. |                                | Southern States.               |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Decades.         | Per cent. of In.<br>of Whites. | Per cent. of In.<br>of Whites. | Per cent. of<br>In. of Slaves. |
| 1800.....        | 36.8                           | 33.9                           | 27.9                           |
| 1810.....        | 40.4                           | 29.7                           | 33.4                           |
| 1820.....        | 37.7                           | 28.2                           | 29.0                           |
| 1830.....        | 36.6                           | 29.3                           | 30.6                           |
| 1840.....        | 39.1                           | 26.5                           | 23.8                           |
| 1850.....        | 39.4                           | 34.2                           | 28.9                           |
| 1860.....        | 41.5                           | 30.3                           | 23.4                           |

The dead weight at the South is slavery. It cannot carry forward its part of the load. The ratio of increase in the Northern States the past decade was nearly twice as great as that of slaves. Now, if the South accept such an institution, it must be at the sacrifice of political power, which, according to the genius of our institutions, must be wielded by the majority. They will not take the first steps to compete with the North, and being distanced in the race by their own fault, they now seek to break up a Government which, as a minority, they can no longer con-

trol. While they could rule as a minority, the Government was good enough for them; as soon as it becomes a Government of the majority, it must be destroyed.

The impotence of the Southern States is well illustrated by the feeble progress of Virginia, the most favored State in the Union in position, climate, soil and mineral wealth. We look to England for snail-like progress, but in 40 years, from 1811 to 1851, the population of that country (including Wales) went from 11,979,120 to 20,816,854, or at the rate of nearly 80 per cent. That of Virginia, in the same time, went from 74,622 to 1,421,632, or at the rate of only 45 per cent.! If Virginia had increased at the rate of New York or Pennsylvania, she would now have had a population of 8,412,000, or five and a half times her present number. She has resources enough for a population of 20,000,000, without being overstocked. Yet she cannot even commence their development, because she enacts by law that all labor shall be blind!

Such is the contrast between the civilization of the South, of which Mr. Stephens so loudly boasts, and that of the North. One is strength, the other weakness. What compromise can there be between them? None, but for the South to repose, as they have done in times past, with perfect safety, upon the strength of the North, instead of defying it.—*Ex.*