



THE LIBERATOR.

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W. LLOYD GARRISON, EDITOR.

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THE LIBERATOR.
BY AN INDEPENDENT FANATIC.
A SERMON TO PREACHING MEN—
STEALERS.

The text is recorded by Zechariah, chapter
11; verses 4 and 5. 'Thus saith the Lord my
God; Feed the flock of the slaughter, whose
possessors slay them, and hold themselves not
guilty; and they who slay them say, Blessed
be the Lord, for I can slack, and their own shep-
herds pity them not.'
As hardened sinners are not fond of long
sermons; especially when they are conscious of
their guilt and application to themselves, I
will proceed without any introduction into the
very narrow of the subject.
I. We have the character and condition
of the American colored citizens exactly de-
scribed; they are 'the flock of the slaughter.'

Because, I. Colored people are not account-
ed as human beings. 2. They are treated in all
respects as if they were an inferior order
of cattle to horses and dogs, except as they
can augment wealth and luxury, and minister
to sensuality. 3. It is considered the greatest
insult in the world among the unfeling and
hardened slave torturers to take any notice of
a gentleman's killing a slave. They are a
body of two legged animals, only kept to be
starved or worked to death, or to be killed by
torture, or outrage, or violation.

II. The conduct of American slaveholders
is plainly declared—'Whose persecutors slay
them and hold themselves not guilty; and they
who sell them say, Blessed be the Lord, for I
am rich.'
1. They are engaged in a most ungodly
traffic, like the people of old, who are con-
demned by the other prophets. Joel 3: 3.
'They have cast lots for my people; and have
given a boy for a harlot, and sold a girl for
wine that they may drink.' This is the con-
stant practice among slaveholders. Amos 2;
6—'Thus saith the Lord; they sold the
righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of
shoes; that part after the dust of the earth
upon the head of the poor, and turn aside the
way of the meek; and the man and his father
gun into the same maid to profane my holy
name.' These are the constant practices of
almost all slaveholders.

2. They mix impiety with their wicked-
ness. They became rich by their man-steal-
ing and man-selling, and then pretend hyp-
ocritically to thank the Lord that He has bless-
ed them in their most felonious mode to ob-
tain opulence. This is true of all slavehold-
ers; they accumulate wealth by continuous
robbery; and yet many of them profess to be
followers of Jesus Christ, who went about do-
ing good, the Prince of Philanthropists, and the
god-like Liberator. Our text, therefore,
teaches us, that all profusion of the christian
religion by such slaveholders, is impious hy-
pocrisy.

3. The slaveholders are as cruel as they
are corrupt and deceitful, for they slay the
flock. The work of murderous death is always
going on in the slaveholding districts, either
more suddenly or with lingering tortures.
No earthly record is kept of the human blood-
sheds and of the human lives sacrificed to the
relentless demon of slavery. The Lord holds
the catalogue, and at the head of fold of the
dirful scroll is the dreadful indictment writ-
ten with American and christian blood—'Their
possessors slay them and hold themselves not
guilty.' They are not only robbers, hypo-
crites and murderers, but practical Atheists,
who commit the most nefarious crimes, and
yet plead not guilty. Thus they despise the
law of God, and maintain, notwithstanding all
their superlative wickedness, that they are in-
nocent. They virtually deny all morality, and
discard the divine government of the world.
They abrogate all religion, and even adduce
the name of God and their hypocritical pro-
fession of divine truth as a sanction for their
inordinate depravity. This is the character,
in different degrees, of all the slaveholders
who curse the church and the world.

III. The conduct of the pretended shep-
herds in reference to slaves; that is of Amer-
ican preachers in the Southern States is pun-
guently denounced—'Their own shepherds pity
them not.' It is one of the most extraordinary
principles of slavery, that ministers of the
gospel, so called, of nearly all denominations,
who reside in slaveholding regions, are slave-
holders, who will sell the righteous for silver,
and the needy for a pair of shoes.' It is self-
evident, that the preachers have no pity for
slaves; they neither comfort them, nor plead
for them, nor instruct them; and all attempts
to teach them by oral doctrine only, is no bet-
ter than solemn mockery. Like the Papists,
they will not permit the colored citizens to
learn to read, or to possess the scriptures; and
all the knowledge which they acquire by
catechism preachers' discourses is both deceptive
and insulting. No man dare to preach the
whole Gospel south of the Potomac and the
Ohio.
Preachers publicly and as readily exchange
men for horses, and women for sheep, or sell
and buy and traffic boys and girls, as any other
class of men-stealers! In the Negro quar-
ter belonging to preachers, the slaves live with
no more religious instruction, equally desti-
tute of food and clothing, and laboring as in-

cessantly, and are scourged as often and as
barbarously, as on the neighboring farms and
plantations of which the domestic despots are
aroused sons of Belial.' In the southern States
of this union, almost all the settled preachers
of every sect are what the Apostle Paul him-
self, terms them, 'men-stealers' without the
smallest particle of commiseration for the col-
ored citizens. They possess not one senti-
ment of compassion for them, more than that
which Pharaoh and his task-masters had for
the Israelites.

In reference to the American colored peo-
ple, slaveholders exemplify all the doings of
those ancient sinners, of whom the Apostle
Paul declares; 'that they who commit such
things are worthy of death, and they not only
do the same, but have pleasure in them that
do them; traitors, heady, high-minded, incen-
dent, fierce, unfeeling, without natural affec-
tion, covenant breakers, false accusers, appli-
cable and unmerciful.'—Romans 1: 28—32.
This is the general character of all slavehold-
ers; and that preachers partake of it is proved
by their withholding almost entirely, all moral
and religious instruction from the victims
of their ungodly despotism. They have no
feeling for their tormented bodies, and no
solicitude for their perishing souls. Hence,
about two millions and a half of our native
citizens in the United States are living in a
state of brutal degradation, with their under-
standings darkened, 'having no hope, and
without God in the world' passing on to eter-
nity as if they were animals without souls,
while the preachers of the Gospel, to them,
are only guides to the dungeon of eternal des-
pair!

Yet this marvellous conception is sustained
and defended, and they who cannot change
the skin of an Ethiopian, contrive to whitewash
the blackness of Satan. They dub the
preaching men-stealers, M. A. and D. D. and
rightly are they invested with those titles, for
they are as the Presbyterial Confession of
Faith declares, 'Homium Pures; Art-Magistri;
and Diaboli Doctores, D. D., Doctor of the
Devil.'

These titles, and the absurdly factitious in-
fluence which they arrogate are acquired and
maintained solely by the hypocritical dona-
tions which they bestow upon the various in-
stitutions of philanthropy, and whose strict-
ly conscientious men would solicit or accept
for christian purposes, as presented under a
christian name, and to purchase christian fel-
lowship. Men-stealers give to Bible societies,
Tract societies, &c. to procure ransom from
the denon of money of which they have de-
frauded the laborer, and robbed the destitute;
but they forget and omit the weightier matters
of the law, judgment, mercy and faith. They
will give a cent which they have stolen
from the colored people to the treasury of the
Lord, as a commutation for retaining the other
ninety-nine for luxury and splendor.—
Preachers, we recommend you seriously to ap-
ply to your consciences the Saviour's search-
ing question—Matthew 23: 33—'How can
you escape the damnation of hell?'

IV. The preacher's duty is enjoined—
'Thus saith the Lord my God, feed the flock
of the slaughter.' Comfort, instruct and nourish
the people doomed to wretchedness and tort-
ure. This is the injunction of God, to all you
preachers, it is paramount to all earthly legis-
lation. The principles of the gospel are aban-
doned; the discipline of the Christian church
is sacrificed; the very character of pure and
undefiled religion as a system of love and ho-
liness is destroyed; and the duty of the evan-
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