From the New York Tribune.

THE DRED SCOTT DECISION.

While there is so much to give us pain and to excite our apprehensions in the Dred Scott decision, we confess that no part of it more thoroughly stirs our indignation than that which at one stroke disfranchises all persons of color in the United States. Great wrongs have at least the respectability of their greatness; but in this mean attempt to crowd down to a lower depth a struggling and persecuted race, there is something akin to the pitiful pleasure with which young Neroes pull off the wings of flies, and stick pins through beetles. Personal oppression is bad enough under governments avowedly autocratic; bad enough when practised upon those who never knew liberty, and who are without hope and without ambition; bad enough when justified by the local law of slavery; but when the Supreme Court of the United States launches its thunderbolts at a handfull of men and women who are as free of right and by law as any silk-gowned gentleman upon the bench, and who are striving, against innumerable obstacles, for culture, for happiness, and for a standpoint of respectability—men and women whom any white-skinned blackguard is at liberty to snub in a railway car, a lecture room or a theatre—why, we feel very much ashamed of our Supreme Court, and very thoroughly reconciled to the fortunes which saved us from being a Chief Justice.

What will be the legal consequences of this decision we do not pretend to say; but, while it seems to be very sweeping and exhaustive in its character, we have no doubt that it will get everywhere just that construction which the interests of a petty tyranny may demand; that doughface judges, and commissioners, and marshals, will use it to extenuate whatever injustice or meanness they may find it necessary to perpetrate; and especially that it will be used to harass and torture the free colored population in the slave States. That the decision of Judge Taney drives a very large class of people, and a class, too, peculiarly open to abuse, out of the United States Courts, leaving them no redress for the most flagrant wrongs, must be apparent even to those who have never read Coke or Chitty.

There were, according to the census, 434,495 free persons of color in the United States in the year 1850. Of these, 275,400 were of unmixed African blood, and 159,095 mulattoes. We suppose that Judge Taney's decision makes no distinction in favor of the lighter tints of cuticle. Mr. De Bow, who is very learned in such matters, tells us that 'where the proportion is less than one-eighth of African blood, the distinction of classes begins to be obscured.' How bleached a man must become in order to be enabled to prosecute a suit for the redress of injuries in the Supreme Court, we do not stop to determine. It will be a very fruitful question for the commentators and the pundits. Well; here are nearly half a million of people, just as much Native Americans as Headley himself. They are engaged in various avocations, are amassing real and personal estate, are paying taxes, and, whenever bad laws will permit them, are, as a class, infinitely more respectable and worthy of citizenship than the vagabonds who howl in Tammany, and break each other's heads at the primary meetings. We venture to say that in Massachusetts, which had in 1850 a colored population of 9,064, there is a higher per centage of negroes who can read and write than would be found among an equal number of short-boys and shoulder-hitters who turn up their nice noses at 'niggers.' A more quiet, orderly and industrious class does not exist in any State of this Union. They have, since Massachusetts had a Constitution, always been regarded as citizens of the United States, and in the exercise of the elective franchise have been subjected to no peculiar disabilities. In one city of that State, not a large one, there are over three hundred colored voters; and if we may credit reports, the doughface Democratic janizaries of the Custom House have never felt any particular delicacy about intriguing for their ballots.

Those free States which have always regarded this class as citizens will, of course, take such legislative measures as may be necessary to secure to it the rights which have never before been disputed. We suspect that the peculiar 'police regulations' of South Carolina and of other slave States will be very much strengthened by this decision, and that Massachusetts and New York seamen will have rather a hard time of it in Charleston and Norfolk. What remedy there may be for this miserable condition of things, we really cannot undertake to say.