

tion proceeds upon a false assumption, namely, that the excepted sections are in a state of loyalty. But is this true? Little loyalty is to be found in them which is not enforced. If the loyalty were sincere the exceptions would not be matter of much regret, because the work of compensated emancipation would be likely to follow in the excluded districts at no distant day. As it is, the exception only perpetuates their motives to rebellion and their sympathy and union with the district under the power of the confederacy; while it alienates the whole slave population within reach of our lines, and thus cuts us off from our means of communication with the slaves that we emancipate. We see no reason why the opposers of the decree should object; they say it could only operate where our lines are, and here its operation is restrained. We, however, hope that it will operate beyond, but not as it would have done if all the territory actually disloyal had been included.

We do not blame the President for not distinctly placing the decree upon the simple ground of justice. Unfortunately, the Constitution was framed with a view to the protection of slave property, and Mr. Lincoln was sworn to respect its provisions. He has gone as far as he could constitutionally in the direction of justice and humanity, and he deserves credit for it, and the more so when we consider the violent opposition which he has encountered from politicians, and the feeble support which he has received from the Church of God, many of whose members and ministers opposed the measure to the last. We rejoice that he so distinctly recognizes the principle of justice and appeals to the providence of Almighty God.

What will be the effect upon the South and upon the war it is difficult to tell. We believe that, by a sort of telegraph, the news will soon be conveyed to the negro population. They will seek our lines as rapidly as possible; they will favor our cause; they will henceforth labor with reluctance, if at all; and they will create apprehensions among their masters which will materially weaken the rebel lines. We do not believe there will be servile insurrections unless the masters provoke them by cruelties to the slaves. The negroes are timid, forgiving, loving, unless aroused by barbarous treatment. If they do but lay down "de shovel and do hoe," the rebellion is crushed.

Emancipation Proclamation.

The proclamation of the President, declaring the slaves in the disloyal states free, has been issued, and will be found in another column. We rejoice to see it. As a military measure, it was one of necessity. The negro population of the South has been from the beginning of the rebellion engaged against the Union. It had no motive until now to refuse its rebellious toil. The slave population of the disloyal states, numbering, by the census of 1860, 3,500,000, contains about two millions of laborers, who have supplied the armies of the South with provisions and clothing, and have thus contributed, without compensation, to sustain the cause of treason as much as if they had been under arms. Add these to the disloyal white men in the South, and you have an aggregate nearly equal to the white population of the North between the ages of eighteen and forty-five. It is the duty of the commander in chief, if possible, to detach this force of slaves from the enemy, and he seeks to do so by the promise of liberty. Is there anything wrong in this? Slavery is not, like marriage, an institution with which the moral law forbids us to interfere. It is not, like debt, an obligation which equity forbids us to dissolve. Indeed, it is an unjust and unnatural relation, and we ought to be thankful that it is in our power to interfere with it without violating the Constitution of the land. Our friends abroad will now see the great difference between the contending parties, and between the issues presented for the war. The North fights for liberty, the South for slavery. The victory of the one is emancipation, the victory of the other is the indefinite perpetuation and extension of slavery on our soil.

Had the measure been adopted earlier it would have been better.

It is unfortunate for us that the decree of the President excepts so large a portion of territory. However it liberates more than 3,000,000 out of 4,000,000 slaves. The excep-