

Have Them on the

fire, looked upon as ridiculous, then as only slowly and at great hard fighting that the truth in regard to it gained ground. Does not the American constitution bear witness to the fact that the principle of fundamental law of the Republic, adopted twelve years after the emancipation of the Declaration of Independence, has been in force for twenty years? The slave trade shall not be prohibited nor restricted! Such dominion had the idea of vested interests over the minds of the people. The right of man to the inalienable right of man to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness!

It is not but yesterday that in the little free and greatest Republic on earth, among the people who boast that they lead the very van of civilization, this doctrine of vested rights was deemed a sufficient justification for all the cruel wrongs of human slavery! Is it not but yesterday, that the rights of property did not justify the rights of property did not justify

ly attached to human beings; when whoever dares to deny that human beings could be rightfully owned, sold, or bought, is a traitor to his husband torn from the wife, and the child from the mother; who whoever denied the right of whoever had paid his money for them to be sold, is a traitor to his country; who whoever was looked upon as a wicked assailant of the rights of property? Is it not but yesterday when in the churches of the North the abolitionists thought took his life in his hands; when in the North the abolitionist was held by the churches as worse than an infidel, was denounced by the churches as a blasphemer, and yet by the mob? I am grey; and I will remember, as every American of advanced age must remember, how over and over again I have been silenced by the declaration that the negroes were the property of their masters, and that to take away a man's slave would be to take away his life, his wife, his children, his property, his religion, his country.

take away his horse without payment. And whoever does not remember that far back, let him look over American literature previous to the war, and say whether it is not piracy which is the life of our flourishing business. It would have lacked defenders! Let him say whether any proposal to stop the business of piracy without compensating the pirates would not have been denounced at first as a proposal to set aside vested rights.

But I am appealing to other states of society, and to times that are past, merely to get my readers, if I can, out of their accustomed ruts of thought. The proof of what I assert about the Kidds and their business is in the thought and speech of today.

the production of wealth as remorselessly and far more regularly and systematically than the pirate robbed the merchantmen. 'Here is a system that steadily condemns thousands to far more suffering and death than that of walking the plank—that of death of the mind and death of the soul, as well as death of the body. Those things are undisputed. No one who will examine the evidence can deny that chronic pauperism and chronic famine which everywhere mark our civilisation are the results of this system. Yet we are told—nay, it seems to be taken for granted—that this system is the only one that will enable us to buy off those who profit by it. Was there ever more degrading abasement of the human mind before a fetish! Can we wonder, as we see it, at any perversion of the human parallel

have drawn a true one! Is it not just as much a perversion of ideas to apply the doctrine of vested rights to property in land, when there are its admitted fruits, as it was to apply it to property in human flesh and blood, as it would be to apply it to the business of piracy? In what does the claim of the Texas landholders differ from that of the hereditary pirate, or the man who has bought

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