SLAVERY AND THE DOMESTIC SLAVE-TRADE IN THE UNITED STATES. IN A SERIES OF LETTERS ADDRESSED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN UNION FOR THE RELIEF AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE COLORED RACE

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E. A. ANDREWS

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BY THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN UNION.

THE American Union for the Relief and Improvement of the Colored Race, was formed in Boston, in January, 1835. An exposition of the principles and plans of the Union was soon after published by the Executive Committee. One of the principal objects of the Society, as stated in that paper, is to collect and publish information of an authentic character respecting Slavery. It is conceived that there is yet no inconsiderable dearth of well-prepared and trust-worthy facts respecting this great national evil. It is obvious that it cannot be peacefully removed, except as it is seen in its true light.

It is in prosecution of this great branch of their labors, that the Committee * present the following Report concerning Slavery and the domestic slave-trade as it exists in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Coming, as it does, from a gentleman who is well acquainted with the whole subject of Slavery, from an actual residence of a number of years in a slave-holding state, it will be read with much interest and profit. It gives, in the opinion of the Committee, an accurate account of Slavery, and of the public sentiment respecting it in the district of country visited. As such, it is respectfully commended to the attention of all the friends of the African race.

BOSTON, JAN. 1, 1836.

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THE time for the solution of the great problem respecting the ultimate destination of the colored people of this country, has probably not yet arrived; and though thousands of patriotic individuals, distinguished alike for wisdom and benevolence, are now engaged in devising plans in relation to this subject, it is probable that many years must elapse before our countrymen will all unite in any measure for the final settlement of this most important question. In the mean time, it is obviously of great importance that no practicable means for their benefit and improvement should be neglected. Upon this subject, the author of these Letters, in common with other members of the "American Union," believes that there is no well founded objection to a general union of all who sincerely wish to promote the best interests of the African race. Correct informa-

tion respecting their present condition, was considered by the members of the American Union as an indispensable preliminary to any relief which could be afforded them; and it was with special reference to obtaining such information, that the author of these Letters was led to visit the northern slave-holding states. The result of these inquiries was given in the following series of Letters, which are now published by order of the Committee to whom they were directed, and in the form in which they were originally written. If their publication shall tend in any degree to turn the minds of our countrymen from angry contention respecting Slavery, to a serious consideration of the duties which they owe to the African race collectively and individually, the wishes of the author will be fully realized.

BOSTON, JAN. 1, 1836.

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