

that Joseph was the only one who was sold into slavery there. How did the Hebrews get into Egypt? Joseph was sold by his brethren into slavery there. What was the design of Providence in that? When, long years afterwards, the denouement appeared, and Joseph's brethren were very repentant, and at the death of their father made a great many most abject apologies and beseechings for pardon,—Joseph said to them—“ye meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.”

Now, sir, I have my theory in reference to this problem of African slavery upon this continent; and I have desired an opportunity of stating it here. I do not believe that it was the design of Providence that this institution should be perpetual here. I have examined this question; I have studied it in the light of revelation, and in the light of history, sacred and profane, and I as firmly believe, as I believe in any tenet of the Scriptures, as I believe in my Bible, as well as my feeble judgment will allow me to penetrate the designs of Providence, that there was a wise and grand design, in permitting African slavery to be introduced into this country. For two centuries there had been efforts to christianize and civilize the African in his own home; those efforts have been continued to the present day. But they have been total failures, and though it may be found that cupidity and avarice, operating upon the Puritans and others who brought them here, may have been at the foundation of the institution, as malevolence and envy prompted the brethren of Joseph to sell him into slavery, yet being brought here in contact with christianity, it may be that they have been civilized and christianized to a far greater extent than they could have been in Africa. And I verily believe that when the time arrives, when by contact with and under the tuition, guidance and control of the superior race, under whom Providence has placed them, they shall have become elevated in the scale of christianity, and civilization, the Almighty will open the way for their return to the land of their ancestors, and they will carry there the blessings of civilization and christianity, and become the missionaries to evangelize Africa. That is my view. But the abolitionists have undertaken to take the business out of the hands of the Almighty, and to hurry on the fulfilment of what they suppose to be the designs of Providence, and possibly to defeat them for a time by having these people remain here. As God is my judge, I believe they will fail in their effort. I do not believe this is in accordance with the designs of Providence. I believe they are interfering against the designs of Heaven in regard to this race. I believe this fever of madness will pass away, and that this race will be restored to their native land, after having been educated by the superior race to read and write and understand the Scriptures and taught to worship God as they ought.

Mr. SANDS. I would just ask the gentleman this question: After all, the question between him and me is whether God's time has come or not. Now, if my friend is so firmly impressed with his belief, that if we are working against God's designs we will come to naught, then can he not rest easy that all will come right in the end? I do not recollect the exact particulars, but the Scriptures contain an account of a gathering together of the long heads among the Jews in relation to the new-fangled notions of religion that were being talked about a great deal. One of the old fellows in the Sanhedrim got up and said—“You better let this alone, because if it is of God it will prosper, and if it is not, it will all come to naught; there is no use in our blowing about it.” If my friend is really impressed with this opinion, why all this fight against the abolitionists? If the Lord is against us He will whip us, without a bit of assistance from this convention.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. Still that does not relieve those who believe the abolitionists are running things to destruction, from the obligation of exerting all the powers that God and nature have given them to resist their acts. And I will say to my friend from Howard (Mr. Sands,) in regard to the Israelites in Egypt, that Jacob and his children were most affectionately invited as guests and emigrants to settle in Egypt by the king. They were encouraged to come by the promise of the good of the land, the best of the land, the fat of the land to eat. And wagons harnessed, and mules loaded were sent with the invitation to bring them down into Egypt, and they were brought down there as guests and as emigrants. They lived there in honor and comfort during the whole of Joseph's life. And Jacob, when he died, would be buried in the land where Rachel was buried; and the king sent his body there with great pomp. It was not until that king died, and another king arose in Egypt that knew not Joseph, that there arose a political jealousy against the Israelites for fear that in the future they might join with the enemies of Egypt. And the king sought to put heavy task-masters over them—provost marshals in all probability, or something of that sort—and burdened them with heavy burdens that they were not able to bear, which ultimately carried out the designs of Providence in accomplishing their exodus from Egypt. My friend from Howard better read that whole history; he will find many most excellent things in it. There are a great many good things in the Bible; and I am sure my friend from Carlisle (Mr. Todd) will be glad to give him instruction on any point. The Hebrews were invited to go to Egypt; and having been oppressed by a subsequent king, I think there was great justice that they were led out of the land; but they were not permitted to go until after