

institutions and spirit of the country which owned it; by the desires of the North, and by the most solemn agreements of the South.

When the day came for Freedom to take it, the South broke down its treacherous promises, opened the gates, and let forth its children to enter the race against Liberty; yet, solemnly declaring that the one which took possession first, should hold and control it. Free settlers took it. Slavery lagged behind, and lost it.

Seeing itself defeated in this nefarious scheme, the South, treacherous again, poured armed men across her border, to plant by violence a Legislature there; and this coerced and fraudulent Legislature dared to legalize Slavery, to defend it against even discussion, by binding a law around every free throat like a halter. Lest it be thought that we exaggerate, we give two sections of the laws of this pseudo-Legislature.

“SEC. 11. If any person print, write, introduce into, publish, or circulate, or cause to be brought into, printed, written, published, or circulated, or shall knowingly aid or assist in bringing into, printing, publishing, or circulating, within this Territory, any book, paper, pamphlet, magazine, handbill, or circular, containing any statements, arguments, opinions sentiment, doctrine, advice, or innuendo, calculated to produce a disorderly, dangerous, or rebellious disaffection among the slaves in this Territory, or to induce such slaves to escape from the service of their masters, or to resist their authority, he shall be guilty of felony, and be punished by imprisonment at hard labor for a term not less than five years.”

“SEC. 12. If any free person, by speaking or writing, assert or maintain that persons have not the right to hold slaves in this Territory, or shall introduce into this Territory, print, publish, write, circulate, or cause to be introduced in this Territory, written, printed, published, or circulated, in this Territory, any book, paper, magazine, pamphlet, or circular, containing any denial of the right of persons to hold slaves in this Territory, such person shall be deemed guilty of felony, and punished by imprisonment at hard labor for a term of not less than two years.”

It was to such laws that armed scoundrels of Missouri swore that the free settlers of Kansas should submit. Northern men, taught to think, to read, to discuss, to make the commerce of opinions free as the air that surrounded them, though in an immense majority, were required, by a pitiful crew of wretches thrust over the border of the State for a mere purpose of violence, to accept these laws, that outrage every institution of the land, and every historic antecedent of our country, or be cut down and shot. It was thought, perhaps, that these sturdy set-