



Anti-Slavery Days: A Sketch of the Struggle Which Ended in the Abolition of Slavery in the United States (Classic Reprint)

James Freeman Clarke

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Excerpt from Anti-Slavery Days: A Sketch of the Struggle Which Ended in the Abolition of Slavery in the United States

Hebrews from Egyptian slavery, but very little about that of the colored people in the United States. Yet this story, when it comes to be fitly told, will be found as intensely interesting as any series of events in the records of mankind.' I do not hope to do more in these chapters (originally given as lectures) than to call attention to a few important events and char. Acters belonging to the period described.

The hot passions of that time have now grown cool. The people engaged in that con?ict can nu derstand each other better. We, of the North, can see more clearly the difficulties under which the slave owners labored. Slavery spread like an Iron network over their society - it was connected with all their habits and interests. They did not see how it was possible to emancipate their slaves without rending asunder the whole fabric of their society. And if they did not decide to plunge into the unknown dangers and terrors of emancipation, they were com pelled, by an inexorable logic, to bind the chains of their slaves tighter day by day, and to resist, by every possible means, everything which disturbed their per feet submission and entire docility. The aggressions of the slave-power, which finally drove the North into the anti-slavery movement, seemed to the slaveholders necessary measures of defence. In their determination not to yield, they seized every weapon which came in their way. Their determined and compact purpose gained them so many successes, that at last they took the fatal leap which ended in the destruction of the whole evil system, and the coming of a better day.

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