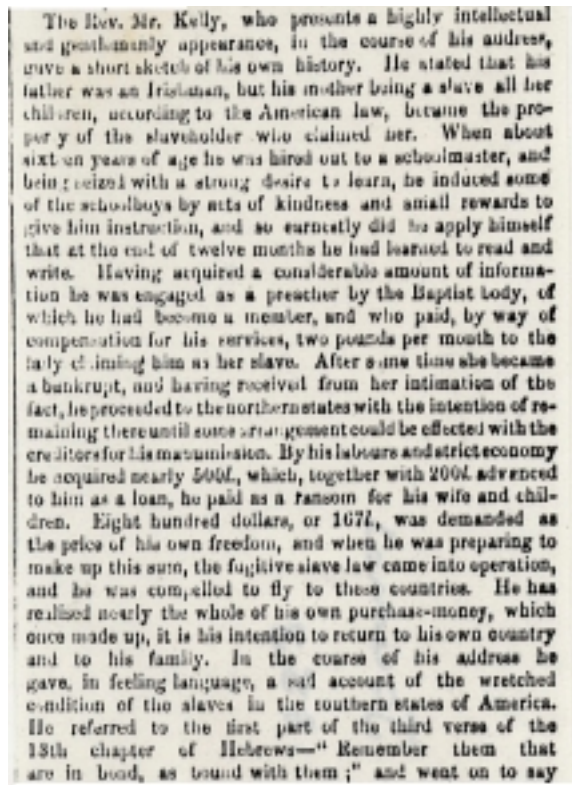


The Rev. Mr. Kelly, who presents a high intellectual and gentlemanly appearance, in the course of his address, gave a short sketch of his own history. He stated that his father was an Irishman, but his mother being a slave all her children, according to the American law, became the property of the slaveholder who claimed her. When about sixteen years of age he was hired out to a schoolmaster, and being seized with a strong desire to learn, he induced some of the schoolboys by acts of kindness and small rewards to give him instruction, and so earnestly did he apply himself that at the end of twelve months he had learned to read and write. Having acquired a considerable amount of information he was engaged as a preacher by the Baptist body, of which he had become a member, and who paid, by way of compensation for his services, two pounds per month to the lady claiming him as her slave. After some time she became a bankrupt, and having received from her intimation of the fact, he proceeded to the northern states with the intention of remaining there until some arrangement could be effected with the creditors for his manumission. By his labours and strict economy he acquired nearly 500*l.*, which, together with 200*l.* advanced to him as a loan, he paid as a ransom for his wife and children. Eight hundred dollars, or 167*l.*, was demanded as the price of his own freedom, and when he was preparing to make up this sum, the fugitive slave law came into operation, and he was compelled to fly into these countries. He has realised nearly the whole of his own purchase-money, which once made up, it is his intention to return to his own country and to his family. In the course of his address he gave, in feeling language, a sad account of the wretched condition of the slaves in the southern states of America. He referred to the first part of the third verse of the 13th chapter of Hebrews—'Remember them that are in bond, as bound with them;' and went on to say



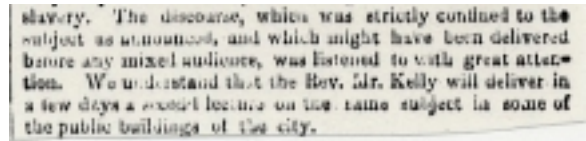
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that in this passage all Christians were called on to sympathise with and advocate the cause of all who were suffering in slavery. In order to do that it was necessary that they should be acquainted with the condition of these slaves, and he proposed to give them some information respecting that class with which he was particularly identified, the slaves in the southern portion of the United States. Of the thirty-one states comprising the American union, sixteen were nominally free states, and in the remaining fifteen slavery was sanctioned by law. A large majority of the inhabitants of the union resided in the northern states, where slavery was prohibited. According to the last census there were in the southern or slave states, 300,000 slaveholders and 3,400,000 slaves, being nearly one-seventh of the entire population.— In open violation of the letter and spirit of the declaration of independence, the right of the coloured race to be free was denied in the southern states, in which the practice and the declaration were as far asunder as the east from the west.— But that was not the only evil of which he had to complain, for there prevailed a wicked system of keeping the slave in absolute ignorance. A school had never been established in the southern states for the instruction of the slaves. Not only were they kept in barbarous ignorance, but their animal appetites and passions were cultivated and excited, so that they almost immediately became even more degraded than the beasts of the field. Having given a fearful account of the system of slave dealing, of a slave auction, and of the heart-rending scenes he had witnessed on those occasions in the breaking of family ties, separating husband from wife, and children from parents, the reverend gentleman towards the conclusion of his lecture impressed upon all Christians the duty they owed humanity of assisting to effect the abolition of

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