

THE SLAVE TRADE.—The recent landing of negroes from Africa upon our Southern coast has called forth much indignation from the Northern press, and has very generally been condemned by the papers in the South. The tone of the Southern press indicates that public opinion in that section is very decidedly against this nefarious traffic. We think there is no doubt that such is the fact. But whether it is so or not, the alarm upon this subject affected by the abolition papers is utterly groundless, and is undoubtedly expressed for political effect. Their other subjects for negro agitation have "died out," and they have seized upon this as a drowning man catches at a straw.—The slave trade cannot be revived, except as other crimes are committed, without Congressional legislation in its favor, and no sane man believes that it can ever be legalized. Upon this point the Journal of Commerce very truly says :—

But conceding for the moment that the slave trade is looked upon with favor at the South ; that its revival would meet with approval at the tribunal of public opinion in the slaveholding States, what have its advocates gained, or what are they likely to gain, by an agitation of the question, at this, or indeed at any other time ? A majority of the States are free States, and the preponderance of the free over the slave States is likely to be increased rather than diminished in the future growth and progress of the country. The equilibrium between the two can never be restored, but must go on to be more marked in the future than at the present. Do the men who talk of reviving the slave trade under the protection of law expect to secure aid for such a project in any free State ? The thought is preposterous, and cannot anywhere be seriously entertained. Any hope, therefore, of such a change, must be groundless, and only serve to disappoint those, if any there be, who have given place in their dreams to such a delusive phantom.