

NEW-YORK, December 3.

ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

The following interesting remarks on the violation of the Laws of the United States and Great-Britain, relative to the abolition of the Slave Trade, are copied from the "Belfast Monthly Magazine" of August last. If the information here given be correct, the continual and principal transgressors of those laws are citizens of the United States. It deserves the serious consideration of Congress, whether some measure cannot be adopted which shall effectually exterminate a traffick so directly at variance with the plain dictates of humanity—so hostile to the laws of our country, and derogatory to our national character.

"On the subject of the abolition of the slave trade, we meet with the following information in the fourth report of the directors of the African Institution, an association formed to watch over the interests of the much wronged inhabitants of the coasts of Africa.

"It has been discovered that in defiance of all the penalties imposed by act of parliament, vessels under foreign flags, have been fitted out in the ports of Liverpool and London, for the purpose of carrying slaves from the coast of Africa to the Spanish and Portuguese settlements in America; and several adventures of this description have actually been completed.

"The persons, however, who are the most deeply engaged in this nefarious traffick, appear to be the citizens of the United States of America. These shelter themselves from the penal consequences of their criminal conduct by means of a nominal sale both of ship and cargo at some Spanish or Swedish port, (the Havana for example, or the island of St. Bartholomew's,) they are thus put in a capacity to use the flags of these states, and so disguised, have carried on their slave trading speculations during the last year, to an enormous extent.

"The different communications received by the directors from the coast of Africa concur in stating, that in the month of October last, the coast was crowded with vessels known to be American, trading for slaves under Spanish and Swedish flags. The slaves thus procured, it is understood, were afterwards to be carried for sale, either to South-America, or to the Spanish West-Indies. Some cargoes (there is reason to believe) were landed at St. Bartholomew's, and smuggled thence into English islands. The extent to which this evil has unexpectedly and suddenly proceeded, and its obvious influence on all the plans for promoting the civilization of Africa, have induced the directors, since the last general meeting, to turn a large share of their attention to the best means of restraining or removing it. Besides making the necessary representations from time to time, to government, they have taken measures for communicating to the officers of the navy, distinct information respecting the provi-

sions of the legislature on this point, and the manner in which those provisions have been eluded, as well as to point out the pecuniary advantages which would accrue to them from a vigorous enforcement of the abolition laws. The inducement to vigilance on the part of the navy is considerable, the captors being entitled to the forfeiture of both ship and cargo. And although all slaves found on board are liberated, yet there is a bounty allowed by government to the captors amounting to forty pounds for each man, thirty pounds for each woman, and ten pounds for each child so liberated. Instances have already occurred in which this bounty has been claimed and received.

"The directors state, that in prosecuting their inquiries into this case, they uniformly experience on the part of the British government a prompt attention to their representations, and a cordial disposition to aid their efforts in preventing the infraction of the laws for the abolition of the slave trade.

"It is to be remembered, to the honour of the government of the United States of America, that it seized an early opportunity of effecting the abolition of this trade as far as legislative enactments could effect it. America, however, has few or no means of enforcing her own commercial edicts. In despite of those edicts, however, her ships are now the great carriers of slaves, without any other defence against the penalties to which as Americans they are liable, than is afforded by the flag, and simulated clearances of some foreign state.

"The directors have also received a letter containing much important information respecting a district of the gold coast, from Mr. Meredith. He states, that the beneficial effects which might be expected to follow the abolition of the slave trade by Great-Britain have been greatly impeded by the continuance of it, though on a reduced scale, by other nations. Accusations, predatory wars, &c. are not so frequent as formerly; but kidnapping, he adds, is still practised. That the inhabitants are more industrious, and that they have more confidence in their personal safety, he thinks is clearly observable. In short, the effects which have flowed from even a partial abolition of the slave trade, seem to him to prove that a total abolition would be attended with many more beneficial consequences; for though the export of slaves from Africa be now comparatively trifling, yet it keeps alive on the coast many of the mal-practices which would otherwise cease. The total abolition, he observes, is therefore necessary.

"The directors have continued to receive the most satisfactory proofs, that Africans are as susceptible of intellectual and moral culture as the natives of any other quarter of the globe."