

A Kentucky Colony.

Wells Editors,

with regard There is a certain restlessness in the public mind respecting our colored population that deserves serious attention. I do not refer to what is said or done at a distance, either North or South. Nor do I allude to the misguided efforts of men who have ^{come amongst us} intermeddled with ~~our~~ ^{the purpose of} ~~the~~ ^{our} ~~social system~~ ^{our} ~~or~~ ^{our} ~~to~~ ^{our} ~~the excitement~~ ^{our} ~~consequent~~ ^{our} ~~hand~~ ^{our} upon their plots. These things may be trusted to our national Constitution and to the law. But whoever ^{with regard to our negro population} observes closely the state of popular feeling, will see that the community is not fully at ease on this subject, and that things cannot well remain as they are. I notice different propositions before our Legislature, looking to changes more or less important in the existing regulations. Evidently something is demanded, but it is hard to know how that demand ought to be met. Meantime the number of free blacks is increasing, and we may expect it still further to increase as the work of emancipation goes on. And there is unquestionably a fixed desire on the part of many masters that their servants should be free. In the limited range of my own acquaintance some thirty or forty ^{or upwards on rights} have been ~~liberated~~ ^{set free} within the last three months. And so we may expect it to continue to be.

The subject is one which belongs to ourselves. No power without the limits of the State can interpose in the case. Our own will is sovereign. And with us rests the responsibility. We must meet it. And we must meet it as sovereigns, neither permitting ourselves to be frightened nor provoked from our propriety.