THE COURIER.



ginia.

The recent visit of President McKin- spark sometimes kindles a great confla- to mirth and gayely. ley to the grave of John Brown, at North gration, and so the insignificant efforts Consider the situation. Virginia had visited a great deal, and were under Elba, N. Y., has revived interest and of John Brown fired the heart of a ra- a great slave population, as far as the more or less excitement on account of discussion in regard to this remarkable tion, and awakened the spirit of human- whole population of the state is con- the festivities going on in house and man. I was in the state of Virginia, ity for the negro slave, wherever he or cerned, and when it came to some of the cabin, and also as it was the annual hirboth before and after his astonishing she existed, throughout the world. armed raid at Harper's Ferry. In 1830, I have no occasion here to treat of the this class was still denser. The Vir- The types of negroes on the planta and it is an interesting piece of bistory moral and political results, as these have ginians always had a strong faith in the tions were very different. There were to relate, by an eye-witness, the condi- been made fully evident, but it has no tidelity of their slaves. This feeling the older and always faithful; the yourg tion of affairs which it at once produced little of sadness to trace the shock of was shown throughout the south, but es and impulsive, who were sometimes negin the households of that old common- this event upon both the southern and pecially in Virginia, where the institu- tectful in their duties, and there were wealth a condition which at this day, northern reople when at last it became vior of slavery partook of much of a some who were brutal, sullen and can scarcely be realized, either here or evident that the old wrangle about slav- patriarchal character. However, they dangerous. The stately matrons, the there. ery, in which the greatest statesmen of knew that, after all, this reliance was beautiful maidens, the tender children, An absolutely fcolish and desperate each section had participated, had now founded on nothing but a sentiment. attempt to capture the United States reached the stage that all had dreaded The laws did not permit the slaves to night came on, and, probably, nowhere armory and the village of Harper's and the wisest had not failed to foresee, own or keep guns, pistols or weapons of in the Christian world was God's pro-Ferry, while successful for the when the who's question would be re- any kind, but behind the front door of textion more devoutly asked in prayer. mcm ant. connected, as it was with moved from the scene of congressional every house on a plantation, or some And the revered slave mammies, aunta plan to liberate and arm the debate to the arbitrament of arms. elaves, aroused an alarm for their homes In the old days the host itality which kept guos used in hunting. The good- vigilant at night, were often sore of and families in Virginia and throughout existed in the cities, and especially on natured master often loaned these gues heart and more watchful by reason of the south. A passion and determina the large p'an'ations of Virginia, was for hunting to favorite negroes, and they mutterings that they heard from the tion never before seen in the many years unbounded and always sincere. The were taken to the cabins. The negroes vicious negroes at the quarters. They, of the agita ion of the slave question planters were westiny, and much of their always had a crees to the houses, night too, pious souls that they were, prayed were developed, which, in turn, so in- time was presel in riding about on and day, through the house servants, for the safety of whites and blacks. tensified political sentiment at the north horseback, fix hunt ng, gunning for who were continually going back and John Brown was of Puritan descent. that, taken, also, with the division in birds, or in visiting and social pleasures. forth to the negro cabins, which were an intelligent man of strong character the democratic party, the election of It was a perfect round of outdoor and always located at some distance from and courage, who had been all his life Abraham Lincolo, in 1860, was assured. indcor entertainment day after day. the mansion. The embittered spirit grew, and the Partly for enjoyment and also for liter- As a result of all the conditions men- for the liberation of the slaves and their next step was the fi irg on Fort Sumter. ary reasons, I was visiting in the mid-t tioned, in the whole extent of the great welfare when in freedom. He was promi-Then came leur years of terrible civil of the ed-lightful scenes and writin state, in the numerous countier, and on nent in the Kansas difficulties and he about them (which, by the way, were every plantation, the white population received money from northern friends war.

wealthy and fertile agricultural counties ing period.

and his followers, his operations in Vir- came news from Harper's Ferry that over these thing". They never failed to ginia have become one of the most ex- made the white men, women and chil. keep a vigilant eve upon the negroes at traordinary pages of human history. A dren turn pale, and at once put an end night by means of patrole, particularly about Christmas time, when the slaves

With such momen'ors ratits of this the last descriptions before they passed were at the mercy of the slaves. Con- who did not know exactly what he would

were often timid when the shades of other equally convenient place, were ies and uncles, as they moved about

an abolitionist. He had many schemes