



ARRIVAL AT CHICKASAW BAYOU OF THE SLAVES OF PRESIDENT DAVIS FROM HIS MISSISSIPPI PLANTATION.—FROM A SKETCH BY F. B. SCHELL.

With the progress of the war, a panorama of incidents and social aspects passed ever before the vision. Society in the South was undone. The old aristocratic society was shaken to the foundation. By common consent that foundation was the institution of slavery. Slavery must needs perish under the pressure of Federal invasion. The ignorant blacks knew not what the uproar and carnival of destruction signified. They vaguely discerned that the event involved themselves. Some of them called the event "Mas'r Linkum." Others denominated it the "year ob jubilo." To their darkened understandings emancipation was a word signifying nothing except commotion—a *vox et præterea nil*. The scene delineated in the engraving on this page represents the arrival of the slaves of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, within the Union lines at Chickasaw Bayou. When the estate of Mr. Davis was overrun and his authority there destroyed, the slaves left the plantation and came in a troop, not knowing for what, to the Federal outposts. But the illustration might serve as well for a hundred similar scenes that were witnessed along the lines during the conquest of the Confederate States.