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DRIFTING.

Is there rest for a burdened soul? Is there peace for a storm-tossed bark ? Is there light where death's surges roll? Will God guide me across the dark? For ohf it is hard to wait,
To watch and to sigh for rest,
To long for the opened gate,
To linger in idle unrest.

To stand in the pitliess storm, Astray in the path of sin, And see the light, pure and warm, That streams from the gate within; To feel the waves, dark and cold,

Come gurgling quite up to our feet, To shiver without the fold, And long for the welcome sweet. The river of life runs swift,

And lo! to its brighter shore, My life-boat may never drift, For the surges that roll before; My weak hands will never guide, For the waves that threaten me; Alone on temptation's tide I am drifting out toward the sea.

A NIGHT WITH WOLVES.

AWAY we went at whirlwind speed over the glistening sheet of snow which covered the whole country for miles

Four splendid horses drew our sledge, and we bounded along noiselessly, only wounded two. smoothly, rapidly, like phantoms. We had some thirty miles to travel; but at piece, and found that all our ammuni- hideous forms of our enemies. Three on Tuesday, the fourteenth instant, the glorious pace we were going, we tion was thereby exhausted. should accomplish it in three hours. It "Do not fire," said Fritz, when I inexpect to be at my chateau by a little past moment-reserve your fire for our last charge of powder. This drove them

Away we went! the snow flew past us like a vast foaming torrent, while I so even, almost imperceptible, was our

Suddenly one of the traces gave way, and in an instant all our four horses, young and high-spirited, were kicking and plunging fearfully. The broken trace was only the least of the damage vant, scrambled out, and seizing their that they had kicked themselves almost entirely free from the sledge.

Had they but done so, and remembering what afterward occurred, I think of the terrible consequences and tremble.

It took us a full hour's work to repair the damage, and even when this and over he went with a bullet through ing the moment to spring. was done, we were compelled to go at a his body. comparatively slow pace, for fear that something should again give way.

in furs and cloaks, leaned lazily and fall. luxuriously back, enjoying the gentle, easy motion, and watching the four horses as they bounded along with the light sledge.

On a sudden, however, I noticed that they seemed to afford Fritz more than ordinary trouble.

I was aroused from my half dreamy tacks the indignation of the travellernamely, for going too fast.

In spite of his exertions they had burst into a furious gallop. He cursed, swore, pulled, and tugged in vain. faces!" shouted old Fritz. With alarmed eyes and erected ears the forts of curb and bridle, and dragged us minute. forward with a velocity I should have thought impossible. As there was no wise by the glorious pace at which we

were going. All on a sudden, however, Fritz ceased to swear, and, with a hasty ejaculation, loosened the reins, and allowed the horses to tear ahead at their utmost speed, without attempting to stop them. The beasts are right, right, by a thous-

and devils! I ought to have known it!" "What do you mean?" I asked.

He turned in his seat, and said in a low voice, his face pale with emotion: "The wolves!"

nothing. At last, however, I could discern a

I thought, however, that it was only red and bolted the door, leaving the the darkness of the hut was illuminated by a common Union, existing and protrees, and laughed at the terror of Fritz, pack outside. which even the horses seemed to share.

mass was in motion, and approached chase after the horses. distance which at first I thought was and piercing screams. the whistling of the wind.

It was the howling of the hungry and ferocious pack of wolves on our track. great deal; but when one comes to be by the teeth of the brutes, I again at-clared by Webster, the nation's most public life, and the audiences I have I will say that having taken my stand plainer and plainer the dreadful howls. they ery out." The terrified horses could hear them now, and dashed on with more desper- returned; for, having devoured the emies were killed or disabled. ate energy than before.

sisted of two fowling-pieces and a brace a very scanty stock of powder and ball, and not more than enough a two or three discharges.

"What is to be done?" I whispered to Fritz.

"Fight! fight to the last!" he replied; "we must be overtaken. The horses cannot hold out much longer. It of wood. Is yet quite twenty miles to the chateau, and they will be upon us in a few minutes. Ha!" he cried, suddenly, "I had

at their utmost speed, and even stabbed | As it caught and burned up, it gave rise them repeatedly with his hunting-knife, to dense volumes of smoke, which, pour to urge them on to fresh exertions.

Ahead of us was a small forest, or fectually kept the wolves at bay. rather wood. It was distant some two But after a time the smoke began to miles, but, owing to the white sheet of clear, the green wood was all gone, and "Since writing the above I have died," snow between, looked much nearer.

"If we could only reach it!" he ut- aside the smoke from the hole in the

ered, furiously lashing the horses. The chase continued. I stood ready with my fowling-piece to fire immediately when they were within shot.

The fleetest of the pack dashed ahead of the others, and approached within a of our fowling-pieces, and soon brought few yards of the sledge. Their howls him, stunned and bleeding, to our feet. were fearful. I fired two barrels, and | Fritz took a piece of burning wood, an instant these were surrounded by the around. others, who quickly tore to pieces and devoured their fallen comrades.

This obtained us a respite—but a very short one; for in less than a minute nothing remained of the wolves I had shot but their bones.

I again loaded my piece, and again the pack dashed on in pursuit. We had ed the roof no more, but all remained not gained half a mile when they were

again up with us. This time they came on more furiously and boldly than before—the brutes

had tasted blood.

When they were near enough, I again fired, and two wolves fell. This time, however, the devouring of their companions did not take so long, for I had Once again I reloaded the fowling-

was now eight o'clock; we might fairly formed him of the fact, "till the last

"Is there any?" I asked gloomily.

mile-is an old hunting-lodge; if we can the fire-brand was now useless. reach it we are safe—if not, we are lost."

Two terrific great monsters were ab- them back. solutely just abreast of us, and were that even the swift wolves could not once took their places. gain upon us.

the horses, we are lost." I fired a barrel at the wolf on my left,

I lighted a cigar, and, well wrapped his leg, breaking it, and causing him to a terrible yell.

But several others took their places. "Keep them off! keep them off!" shouted Fritz, "but for one minute, and with the gun he wielded. we are saved. The hut is close by."

ed to the call.

short at the hut.

"Fire your pistols right in their

"Now, sir, now!" he cried, holding

open the hut door-" haste," Still holding the fowling-piece by the leaped to the ground,

pursuit of the horses, while others were between me and the hut.

brutes, and rushed through them to the ed my arm. open door.

from my leg.

The next instant, faint and bleeding, the hand. dark mass in the snowat a great distance. we were safe in the hut, and Fritz bar-

For a moment or two they scratched In about ten minutes, however, the and gnawed at the door, and then dash- a moment, and in that moment I notic- the exigencies of either war or peace. terrible truth burst on me-the dark ed off to join their companions in the ed with Joy that no more were on the In the principles announced by the Con-

rapidly. I heard, too, a sound in the Soon after we heard heart-rending

horses, and apparently not half satisfied,

could hear them crawling about outside. dead enemies, and fainted.

smoke to escape. The hut in which we had found tem-

It contained a rude fireplace, and, fortunately for us, there were still embers smouldering. There was also a litforgotten—there is yet a gleam of hope!" the green brushwood in the hut, thusalch, I shall never forget our night are confident that the Convention has And now he lashed the horses, already which Fritz hastened to cast in the fire. ing through the aperture in the roof, ef-

the wind, which now was high, blew and sent the missive.

roof.

In a very short time we perceived the glearning eyes and red mouth, half open, of a monstrous wolf looking down on us We struck at him with the butt-end

three wolves fell dead or wounded. In mounted to the aperture, and waved it Wolves, like all wild beasts, are in mortal dread of fire, and we soon heard

them all scamper off the roof All through the long night we heard the howling of the feroclous pack, who had now regularly terrified us; for, although scared by the fire, they attemptaround the hut.

All things have their end, and so at last had this long and dismal night.

Theday broke at last, and Fritz, arousing himself, piled on the fire every available bit of wood he could find. For full three hours after sunrise noth ing occurred beyond howling; but what an awful three hours were they!

Suddenly our eyes, which were fixed roof and were looking down upon us. with an authentic copy of its proceed-I fired my fowling-piece—our last away, and the dead body of one fell know how far, perhaps not more than a sun was now bright in the heavens, and

Soon another and fiercer lot succeeded

done; and when I and Fritz, my ser- striving to get ahead to the horses, who, ly at them, all the time shouting loud- gratifying and cheering evidence that poor brutes, could hear and see them, ly. Several fell wounded and incapable there exists among the people a public heads, stopped their pranks, we found and tore away at such a terrible pace of injury into the hut, but others at sentiment which renders an early and

"Fire! fire!" shouted Fritz; "fire, hunger, which the two horses and their and inevitable. Party faction, seeking

rible force of my blows.

At this moment a wolf, leaping from could nor desired to repress, you would One monster sprang at my throat, but, the aperture, alighted on my shoulders, have felt, as every person present felt, fortunately, I succeeded in striking and endeavored to fix his horrid fangs that he time had arrived when all sec-I stood up in the sledge and looked him down, and he was content with in my throat. I tore him away, and tional or other perilous dissensions had back, but for a long time could discover tearing a piece, with his horrid fangs, flung him on the embers of the fire, re-ceased, and that nothing should be heard gardless of a dreadful bite I received in in the future but the voice of harmony

> The sparks flew in all directions, and country, of pride in being bound together by a flame of light as the fire blazed up. tected by forms of government proved roof.

"Ah, I thought so," said Fritz sadly, were near. Shouting words of encour- will soon prevail. We know that as ought to say. I confess that, notwith- aggressive. My nature, on the contrary, "my poor horses! They can stand a agement to Fritz, who was terribly torn in former days, as was eloquently destanding the experience I have had in is rather defensive in its character. But Closer and closer came the dark mass; torn to pieces by welves, it is no wonder tacked them with my little remaining gifted statesman, Massachusetts and addressed, this occasion and this assem-It was not long before the furious pack and in half a minute our remaining en- shoulder through the Revolution," and whelm me.

found that we were saved. edly, were I to live to be as old as Me- it gives us marked pleasure to add, we of the Union. with the wolves.

AN INTERESTING SCENE.

THE committee consisting of two delegates from each State, appointed by the National Union Convention to wait upon the President with an official copy of the proceedings of the Convention, met this morning and postponed until one o'clock the time for the interview. It was originally intended that ten A.M. should be the hour at which the recep-

tion would be had. About one o'clock the committee, headed by a band of music, reached the White House. They were conducted into the East Room by Marshal Gooding, and were so arranged as to form a circle. The delegates to the Convention who were in the city were then invited in, and took a position in the rear of the committee. The President soon appeared, and was accompanied by Secretaries M'Culloch, Welles, and Browning, and Postmaster-General Randall. The Hon. Reverdy Johnson, of Maryland, then advanced and said:

MR. PRESIDENT: We are before you incessantly on the aperture, saw the Convention, which met in Philadelphia of the largest wolves had climbed the charged with the duty of presenting you inces, denying the right to be represent-

Before placing it in your hands, you taxation. That such a state of things is go no farther than did your Convention will permit us to congratulate you on at war with the very genius of our and the distinguished gentlemen who through the aperture, and into the hut. the object for which the Convention was Government, inconsistent with every has delivered to me the report of its "One, and one only. Not far from This, however, procured us but a short called; in the enthusiasm with which, in idea of political freedom, and most percould almost fancy that we were at rest, this, in the woods hence-but I do not respite; the brutes knew the way; the every State and Territory, the call was re- ilous to the peace and safety of the to it. That, I do not believe, the time sponded to; in the unbroken harmony of country, no reflecting man can fail to and the occasion justify. We have its deliberations; in the unanimity with believe. which the principles it has declared were On came the wolves-and they were those we had driven away, and we had adopted; and more especially in the many, and quite close upon the sledge. now no more powder or shot to drive patriotic and constitutional character of the principles themselves, we are confi-Clubbing our guns, we struck furious- dent that you and the country will find complete restoration of the Union as The furious monsters, ravenous with established by the Constitution certain and aim well; for if those brutes reach comrades they had devoured but seem- the continuance of its misrule, may And in the discharge of the duties ed to whet, glared down upon us from momentarity delay it, but the principles the roof, howling incessantly, and wait- of political liberty for which our fathers did every member of the Convention, successfully contended, and to secure At last one great brute set the exam- which they adopted the Constitution, I very nearly missed the second, but ple, and crouching for an instant, sprang are so glaringly inconsistent with the fortunately the ball grazed the bone of | right at Fritz, at the same time giving | condition in which the country has been placed by such misrule, that it will not Fortunately old Fritz was enabled to be permitted a much longer duration. spring on one side, and the moment the We wish, Mr. President, you could have wolf landed he dashed out his brains witnessed the spirit of concord and brotherly affection which animated every fraternal love everywhere prevailing, occupy that position I shall not allude out reference to party. The query only Hardly was this accomplished than member of the Convention. Great as Frantically he flogged and shouted to another and another leaped down, and your confidence has ever been in the inthe horses, and desperately they respond- these were followed by still more, which telligence and patriotism of your fellowall our efforts could not keep back. Fu- citizens, in their deep devotion to the I fired the two barrels of the remain- riously we fought with the desperation Union, and their present determination fixing our beloved country on a firm charter of our liberties, as the great state by hearing him devote them to ing fowling-piece, and then, sticking of despair, for we had almost given up to reinstate and maintain it, that conthe infernal gods, in all the mingled di- my pistols in my belt, I shouldered my hope. Several times I felt the fangs of fidence would have become a positive place our liberty and happiness beyond Having been taught in my early life to sleets of Poland, Germany, and Russia, gun, and standing up, struck right and the wolves in my flesh; but by almost conviction could you have seen and the reach of human peril; then, too, hold it sacred, and having practised upand that for a cause which seldom atleft at the howling pack, which were superhuman exertion freed myself, and heard all that was done and said upon and forever will our Government chalon it during my whole public career, I laration is the second proclamation of now rapidly accumulating on our rear. laying about me right and left, sent the the occasion. Every heart was evidently lenge the admiration and receive the shall ever continue to reverence the The next moment, and we pulled up shaggy brutes sprawling under the ter- full of joy, every eye beamed with pa- respect of the nations of the world, and Constitution of my fathers, and to make triotic animation; despondency gave we in no danger of any efforts to im- it my guide. In vain; as fast as they fell others place to the assurance that, our late came leaping down, and the hut was dreadful civil strife ended, the blissful I did so, and had the satisfaction of now alive with the wild, savage beasts. reign of peace, under the protection, not add, that great as your solicitude for the that the Executive Department of the eager horses disregarded the utmost ef | seeing the howling pack fall back for a | With a short prayer, and nerved with a | of arms, but of the Constitution and restoration of our domestic peace and | Government has been despotic and fierce determination, I threw myself in laws, would have sway, and be in every This gave Fritz an opportunity of their midst, and giving all my strength part of our land cheerfully acknowljumping out and cutting adrift the to one last desperate effort, I created edged, and in perfect good faith obeyed. danger, I was rather amused than other- horses, who immediately galloped off. fearful havoc among the crowded mass. You would not have doubted that the or actual foreign power to enforce an il- to a speech I ever made, to a single act of The cry was still they come. Weary, recurrence of dangerous domestic insurfaint, and despairing, I staggered, and rections in the future are not to be apwas about to fall prostrate on the prehended. If you could have seen the barrel, and swinging it around me, I ground among the horrible sea of glar-men of Massachusetts and South Carolina ing eyes, white teeth, and red throats coming into the Convention on the first Some of the wolves had dashed off in which surrounded me, when a loud shout day of its meeting, hand to hand, amid from outside, followed by a rapid and the rapturous applause of the whole sustained discharge of fire-arms, gave body, awakened by heartfelt gratification I struck viciously at the howling me fresh strength, and once again nerv- at the event, filling the eyes of thousands with tears of joy which they neither

> The wolves were steadied by this for by experience to be eminently fitted for stood hand in hand around the Adminand loyal to the great crisis upon which Thus ended this adventure; but assur- your lot is cast;" and in this declaration A MERCHANT suddenly died after ten control the mere partisan, and gov- seene, I could not finish reading the dis- cloud far beyond, and I saw that all in this crisis, and at this period of my

expense of the public good. In the and unerring Providence is in this matmeasures which you have adopted for ter. The nation is in peril. We have the restoration of the Union, the Con- just passed through a mighty, a bloody, violate day after day and month after vention saw only a continuance of the policy which for the same purpose was find ourselves free from the difficulties cessor, in his re-election by the people after that policy had been fully indicat- their duties-both officers and mened, and had been made one of the issues | (turning to General Grant, who stood of the contest. Those of his political at his right)-while they have won laufriends who are now assailing you for rels imperishable, there are still greater less of the opinions which their support and while we have had their co-operaof his re-election necessarily involved, tion in the field, we now need their being upon the same ticket with that support in our efforts to perpetuate peace. much lamented public servant whose the civilized world-with grief and horas a committee of the National Union in which at one time the insurrection as the work progressed, as reconciliaed while subjecting their people to every | ing us. species of legislation, including that of

> We hope, sir, that the proceedings of ness to the course you are pursuing by you, and that the wish which lies nearment be allowed, and the conviction that that result can only be accomplished by the measures which you are pursuing. which these impose upon you, we, as

peach our honor. And permit me, sir, in conclusion, to your labors to that end, you have also a tyrannical. Let me ask this audience watchful eye to the rights of the nation, of distinguished gentlemen around me and that any attempt by an assumed here to-day to point to a vote I ever gave, legal blockade against the Government | my whole public life that has not been or citizens of the United States, to use against tyranny and despotism. What your own mild but expressive words, position have I ever occupied, what mination I am sure you will receive the can be truthfully charged that I failed unanimous approval of your fellow-

I have the honor to present you with an authentic copy of its proceedings.

The allusion in the above address to the determination of our Government to disregard the attempt of an assumed or actual foreign power to enforce an illegal blockade was greeted with loud proclaiming devotion to a common and continuous cheering.

When Mr. Reverdy Johnson had concluded, the President said:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee vention, and in the feeling there mani- this occasion. Perhaps I could express myself, the elements of my nature, the Another shout outside, and a still clos- fested, we have every assurance that more by permitting silence to speak, er discharge, informed us that friends harmony throughout our entire land and you to infer what I might and either in my feelings or in my practice,

strength. Fritz, too, ably seconded me, South Carolina went "shoulder to blage are well calculated to and do over-As I have said, I have not language Having placed myself upon that broad ambition have been to occupy that po-Scarcely had the glaring eyes of the istration of Washington, and felt his to convey adequately my present feel-platform, I have not been a wed, dismay-sition which retains all power in the Nearer and nearer they came. We they surrounded the hut on all sides, last disappeared, under a furious blow own great arm lean on them for support, lings and emotions. In listening to the ed, or intimidated by either threats or hands of the people. It is upon that I

writing a letter to one of his correspon- erning alone by an honest opinion of patch to one associated with me in the would be safe in the end.

nation, such a class is incapable of re- spiration, and that we need not be missorting to any bait for popularity at the taken that the finger of an overruling

inaugurated by your immediate prede- and dangers that at first surrounded us. While our brave men have performed sternly pursuing it, forgetful or regard - and more important duties to perform; carried out, would result in despotism So far as the Executive Department of foul assassination touched the heart of the Government is concerned, the effort has been made to restore the Union, to ror-you would have been false to obvi- heal the breach, to pour oil into the ous duty if you had not endeavored to wounds which were consequent upon lainous character, has made its way carry out the same policy; and judg- the struggle, and to speak in common ing now by the opposite one which Con- phrase, to prepare, as the learned and gress has pursued, its wisdom and pa- wise physician would, a plaster healing triotism are indicated by the fact that in character and co-extensive with the that Congress has but continued a brok- wound. We thought, and yet think, en Union by keeping ten of the States that we had partially succeeded. But existed, as far as they could accomplish tion seemed to be taking place, and the it, in the condition of subjugated prov- country becoming united, we found a

In alluding to that element I shall witnessed in one department of the Government every effort, as it were, to the Convention will cause you to ad- prevent the restoration of peace and here, if possible, with even greater arm- harmony in the Union. We have seen hanging upon the verge of Government, satisfying you that the people are with as it were, a body called, or which assumes to be, the Congress of the United pronounce it a second Declaration of Inest to their hearts is that a perfect res- States, but in fact a Congress of only a toration of our Union at the earliest mo- part of the States. We have seen this Congress assume and pretend to be for the Union, when its every step and act tended to perpetuate disunion and make a disruption of the States inevitable. Instead of promoting reconciliation

and harmony, its legislation has partakagain for ourselves individually tender en of the character of penalties, retaliato you our profound respect and assur- tion, and revenge. This has been the ance of our cordial and sincere support, course and policy of one department of With a re-united Union, with no foot your Government. The humble indibut freemen's treading or permitted to vidual who is now addressing you platform upon which all can make comtread on our soil, with a nation's faith stands the representative of another depledged forever to a strict observance of partment of the Government. The all its obligations, with kindness and manner in which he was called upon to preservation of the Government withthe desolations of war will soon be re- to on this occasion; suffice it to say that moved; its sacrifices of life, sad as they he is here under the Constitution of the have been, with Christian resignation, country, and being here by virtue of its be referred to a providential purpose, of provision, he takes his stand upon that and endurable basis, which will forever rampart of civil and religious liberty.

I know it has been said, and I must be permitted to indulge in the remark, "will be disregarded." In this deter- ground have I ever assumed, where it to advocate the amelioration and elevation of the great mass of my country-Now, sir, as the chairman of this com- men? So far as charges of that kind mittee, and in behalf of the Convention, are concerned, I will say that they are simply intended to deceive and delude the public mind into the belief that there is some one in power who is usurping and trampling upon the rights and perverting the principles of the Constitution. It is done by those who make such charges for the purpose of covering their own acts. I have felt it my duty, in vindication of principle and the Constitution of my country, to call attention to those proceedings. When we come to examine who has been playing LANGUAGE is inadequate to express the tyrant, by whom do we find that the emotions and feelings produced by despotism has been exercised? As to fifty or sixty millions of appropriations at pursuits of my life, have not made me, the Constitution, there is not power claimed myself dictator, enough on earth to drive me from it.

could not only hear their dreadful howls, and nothing could be heard but their from the butt-end of my gun, than, ut- so will they again with like magnani- address which your eloquent and disbut even the tramp of their cursed feet, horrible howlings. We could hear them terly worn out by the tremendous exermity, devotion, and power stand round tinguished chairman has just delivered, conjunction with patriotic spirits, sound-rely now. (A voice, "And the people the rely worn out by the tremendous exermity, devotion, and power stand round tinguished chairman has just delivered, conjunction with patriotic spirits, sound-rely now. as they galloped along the frozen snow scraping, scratching, and tearing the tion of the last ten minutes, bleeding your Administration and cause you to the proceedings of the Convention, as ing the tocsin of alarm when I deemed will not disappoint you.") And I reon our track. The arms we had con- wood-work of the hut with their teeth. from half a dozen places where the feel that you may also lean on them for they transpired, recurred to my mind. the citadel in danger. I said on a pre- peat, that neither the taunts nor jeers Next they attempted to climb to the wolves had torn my flesh, nature gave support. In the proceedings, Mr. Presi- Seemingly I partook of the inspiration vious occasion and repeat now that all of Congress, nor of a subsidized calumof pistols. Unfortunately, we had but roof, and soon some succeeded, for we way, and I fell forward on a pile of our dent, which we are to place in your that prevailed in the Convention, when that was necessary in this great strughands, you will find that the Convention I received a dispatch, sent by two of its gle against tyranny and despotism was, purpose. I acknowledge no superior There was no chimney to the hut, but The next moment the door was burst performed the grateful duty imposed distinguished members, conveying in that the struggle should be sufficiently except my God, the author of my exist merely an aperture in the roof for the open, and our friends from the chateau, upon them by their knowledge of your terms the scene which has just been audible for the American people to hear ence, and the people of the United who had come to the rescue, rushed in, "devotion to the Constitution and laws described of South Carolina and Massa- and understand. They did hear, and States. For the one, I try to obey all and raising the apparently lifeless forms and interests of your country," as illus- chusetis, arm-in-arm, marching into looking on and seeing who the contest- His commands, as best 1 can, compatiporary safety consisted only of four of myself and Fritz, bore us out into trated by your entire Presidential career, that vast assemblage, and thus giving ants were, and what that struggle was ble with my poor humanity. For the walls, made of rough but strong slabs the air, where, laid on the cold snow, of declaring that in you they "recognize evidence that the two extremes had about, they determined they would set other, in a political and representative we soon recovered con sciousness, and a Chief Magistrate worthy of the nation, come together again, and that, for the tlo this question on the side of the Confuture, they were united, as they had stitution and of principle. I proclaim have always been respected and obeyed been in the past, for the preservation here to-day, as I have on other occasions, by me. that my faith is abiding in this great Mr. Chairman, I have said more than When the dispatch informed me that, mass of the people. In the darkest I had intended to say. For the kind but spoken the intelligent and patriotic in that vast body of men, distinguished struggle, when the clouds seemed to be allusions to myself contained in your

> dents. His clerk wrote at the bottom, constitutional obligations and rights, office, for my own feelings overcame My countrymen, we all know that, in shall ever recur, with feelings of proand of the duty of looking solely to the me. I think we may justly conclude the language of Thomas Jefferson, ty- found gratification, to the last resolutrue interests, safety, and honor of the that we are moving under a proper in- ranny and despotism even can be exer- tion, containing the endorsement of -

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cised and exerted more effectually by the many than by the one. We have by step upon constitutional rights, and a momentous ordeal, and do not yet month the fundamental principles of the Government. We have seen a Congress that seemed to forget that there was a Constitution of the United States -that there was a limit to the sphere and scope of legislation. We have seen a Congress in a minority assume to exercise powers which, if allowed to be or monarchy itself. This is truth, and because others as well as myself have seen proper to appeal to the patriotism and republican feeling of the country. we have been denounced in the severest terms. Slander upon slander, vituperation upon vituperation of the most vilthrough the press. What, gentlemen, has been your and my sin? What has been the cause of our offending? I will tell you. Daring to stand by the Constitution of our fathers! (Approching Senator Johnson.) I consider the proceedings of this Convention, sir, as more important than those of any convention that ever assembled in the United States. When I look with my mind's eye upon that collection of citizens coming together voluntarily, and sitting in council, with ideas, with principles, and views commensurate with all the States and co-extensive with the whole people, and contrast it with the collection of gentlemen who are trying to destroy the country, I regard it as more important than any convention that has sat, at least, since 1787. I think I may also say, that the declarations that were there made are equal with the Declaration of Independence itself, and I here to-day

Your address and declarations are nothing more nor less than a reaffirmation of the Constitution of the United States. Yes, I will go farther, and say that the declarations you have made, that the principles you have enunciated in your address, are a second proclamation of emancipation to the people of the United States; for in the proclaiming and reproclaiming these great truths you have laid down a constitutional for the restoration of the States and is the salvation of the country, for our country rises above all party considerations or influences. How many are there in the United States that now require to be free! They have the shackles upon their limbs and are bound as rigidly as though they were in fact in emancipation to the people of the Uni ted States, and offers a common ground upon which all patriots can stand.

Mr. Chairman and gentleman, let me in this connection ask you what I have to gain more than the advancement of the public welfare? I am as much opposed to the indulgence of egotism as any one, but here, in a conversationalmanner, while formally receiving the proceedings of this Convention, I may be permitted again to ask, what have I to gain consulting human ambition more than I have gained, except in one thing? My race is nearly run. I have been placed in the high office which I occupy under the Constitution of the country, and I may say that I have held. from lowest to highest, almost every position to which a man may attain in our Government. I have passed through every position, from alderman of a village to the Presidency of the United States; and surely, gentlemen, this should be enough to gratify a reasonable ambition. If I wanted authority, or if I wished to perpetuate my own power, how easy would it have been to hold and wield that which was placed in my hands by the measure called the Freedmen's Bureau Bill. With an army which it placed at my discretion I could have remained at the capital of the nation, and with my disposal, with the machinery to be worked by my own hands, with my satraps and dependents in every town and village, and then with the Civil Rights Bill following as an auxiliary in connection with all the other appliances of the Government, I could have pro-

But, gentlemen, my pride and my

sentiment of the country. Ever inacs for intellect and wisdom, every eye was most lowering, my faith, instead of giv- address, and in the resolutions adopted cessible to the low influences which of suffused with tears on beholding the ing way, loomed up through the dark by the Convention, let me remark that public life, I hold above all price, and