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GOOD MORNING.

"Oh, I am so happy!" a little girl said, As she sprang, like a lark, from a low trundle bed;

"Happy you may be my dear little girl," As the mother struck softly a clustering curl—

And two little hands, that were folded together, Softly she laid on the lap of her mother,

OUR COUNTRY, ITS PERIL: ITS DELIVERANCE.

By Rev. ROBERT J. BRECKENRIDGE, D. D., Danville, Kentucky.

I. 1. What we propose is, first, to make such a statement of the condition of affairs as may be of use to upright men, in enabling them to determine what ought to be attempted and what can be accomplished...

2. There is no lesson which the universal course of human affairs teaches so thoroughly, as their own instability. And yet there is no lesson so hard for men to learn; no lesson so pregnant with results, and so little heeded.

3. Look at the actual condition of public affairs throughout this great nation—consider whether they are tending—consider whence that tendency has arisen—consider by what means it is propagating itself; and then reflect upon the unexpected and extraordinary means by which ruin is overtaking every interest and hope of the country...

4. Once more in the progress of time and events, and the ruin of political parties—the whole nation finds itself arrayed in the last Presidential election, into two opposite parties, of which the date of one is mad enough to subdivide itself into three...

other questions, are resolved, so far as that election could resolve them. But the solution is every way remarkable. For while Mr. Lincoln is elected President—the majority of the nation is so decidedly against him, that he would have been beaten if the power of Congress to create uniform electoral districts had ever been exercised; nay, would have been beaten under the existing system...

5. It is not easy to conjecture, and it is impossible to say with certainty, what would have occurred if the late Presidential election had terminated differently from what it did, in any one of the various ways in which a different termination was possible.

6. Is it possible for any thoughtful person to suppose, that this spirit of reckless disregard of all existing institutions, has already accomplished all the results of which it is capable? What shall prevent it from the swallowing up all the remaining slave States?

7. What shall prevent its taking some new direction with still more vehement force, throughout the whole North? What shall prevent a counter revolution in every Northern State? And who can venture to hope, that everywhere tramples under foot those institutions which everywhere have been esteemed most sacred...

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infinite disorder. It is as the steady working of omnipotent force unto the production of universal helplessness. It is, when it shall pervade the earth, the realization of the conjectures of those who expound the divine predictions concerning the condition in which The Son of Man will find all nations at his second coming—the universal reign of lawlessness after the universal disintegration of every element capable of restraining it.

II. 1. Let us now seek, amidst this chaos, for some ground of hope and effort. Throughout the eighteen free States, society is supposed to be under the control of the Republican party. As indicated by the Presidential election in November last, it may be conceded that the majority in all those States, did at that time, believe the election of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency, to be the best of the alternatives then offered to their choice...

2. In the position of all the slave States there are peculiar circumstances much overlooked, both among themselves and others; but nevertheless decisive in the long run. No force, however small, but will accomplish its end, if sufficient time be allowed; even that which is infinitely minute, if it operates through an indefinite period.

3. These facts and considerations, taken in detail and taken altogether, are worthy of the highest consideration; and whatever the issue of events may be, they reveal to the people and to those they trust, the grounds on which, and the manner in which, the country may be saved; and they disclose to posterity the pregnant and enduring truth, that at the utmost peril of the country the people would have saved it, if they had been bravely and wisely led.

would have saved it, if they had been bravely and wisely led. For under fair and true statesmanship, the chances are more than equal, in the first place, to rally the immense masses of the nine slave States whose people are now pondering their course, to such an action as will make their position secure in the Union, and satisfy them; in the second place, to secure such a treatment of the subject of secession by the Federal Administration, as will at once give efficacy to the laws, and avoid armed collision, except in repelling force by force; in the third place, to seek and rely upon such a reaction among the masses of the people in the free States, as will, by a common consent, or if it becomes necessary, by a counter-revolution in their own bosom, restore public opinion to a condition under which slave States may safely live in peace with them.

3. The remaining nine slave States, of which five are border States, and four are mixed slave States, have in each of these classes peculiarities as marked as those which distinguish the cotton States; yet as the whole nine occupy a similar position at the present moment, with regard to the revolution which has swept over the cotton States, they may, for the sake of brevity, be thrown together in developing the great ideas we are endeavoring to disclose.

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A Frozen Ship.

A whaling vessel, which sailed from London in the year 1840, found in the Polar sea, a ship imbedded in the ice, with sails furled, and no signs of life on board. The captain and some of the crew descending into the cabin, found coiled upon the floor a large Newfoundland dog, apparently asleep, but when they touched it they found the animal frozo as hard as stone.

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Events Preceding the Assault upon Fort Sumter.

The real destination and object of the fleet sent by the Government to the South, as well as the nature of the negotiations which preceded the attack of the Confederate batteries upon Fort Sumter, is still involved in doubt and uncertainty. All we know is that several vessels crossed the bar and entered the harbor of Charleston, while the battle was progressing, without striking a blow or attempting to afford assistance to the beleaguered garrison.

Nearly four weeks since the President and Cabinet, on the representation of Gen. Scott, decided to evacuate Fort Sumter as a military necessity—that is to say, the reinforcing and provisioning of it was not deemed essential, in view of the cost of blood and treasure it would require to accomplish the purpose.

These negotiations have been progressing ever since, and the numerous messengers that have been passing between Charleston and Washington have communicated to Major Anderson the instructions of the Government and to the President the demands of the authorities of the Southern Confederacy. It is understood that Major Anderson refused, under instructions, an unconditional surrender of the fort to the Confederacy, but proposed to abandon it with his garrison, leaving the fort in possession of a corporal and two privates, to protect the property of the Government, and leave it thus to await future events.

This demand, which would be a virtual recognition by the President and Major Anderson of the existence of the Southern Confederacy, was firmly refused, and the decision of Maj. Anderson was subsequently sustained and approved by the President and his Cabinet. This matter stood up to the commencement of last week, when Gen. Beauregard intimated to Major Anderson that, if the demand of the Confederacy was not complied with, an order would be immediately issued to cut off all further communication between the fort and Charleston, and that his regular supplies of marketing would be stopped.

Immediately after this decision orders were given for the military and naval preparations that have since occasioned so much excitement, the object being to use them if necessary in relieving the garrison of Major Anderson from threatened starvation, and maintaining the dignity of the Government and the honor of the flag in Charleston harbor; or, if not required there, to dispatch the expedition to Texas to maintain the treaty stipulations of the Government on the frontier, and drive back the Indians and Mexicans who are threatening to invade the State.

In the meantime Lieut. Talbot was dispatched by Major Anderson to Washington with further information as to the condition of affairs, in which rumor says that Major Anderson urged the Government not to allow the flag which he had so long maintained in the face of his besiegers to be humbled as they required—and to compel the gallant men who had stood so nobly by him, including the mechanics who could have left him if they had desired, to witness the humiliating sight of any flag but that of their country floating from its battlements.

This account further states that as soon as information was received at Washington that Gen. Beauregard had cut off the supplies from Fort Sumter, the President dispatched a messenger to Charleston, with instructions to Major Anderson to notify the Confederate authorities that the Government proposed immediately to dispatch an unarmed vessel with food for the garrison at Fort Sumter; and that he was instructed, if the vessel should be fired upon, to return the fire from the fort. The messenger arrived at Charleston, but was denied the opportunity of communicating with Fort Sumter. We know what followed. The expedition started from New York, and immediately the secession batteries opened upon Fort Sumter, which, in its almost defenceless condition, was compelled to surrender.

This account, which is certainly plausible and consistent, will, if it turns out to be correct, serve to explain the apparent change of policy on the part of the Administration with reference to the evacuation of Fort Sumter.