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The Patriot & Union.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JAN. 23, 1861.

THE NATIONAL CRISIS.

We present below two Democratic speeches on the Senate resolutions, relative to the perpetuity of the Union. They were delivered in the House of Representatives by Messrs. Hill, of Montgomery, and Bryne, of Luzerne. Mr. Hill said:

Mr. Speaker. When these resolutions were first placed upon our file it was my purpose simply to record my vote, without speech or comment. They have given rise to a general debate, and the whole political field has been traversed. Whilst I deplore the tone of partisanship which gentlemen have indulged in, I do not regret that there has been opportunity offered for free and full expression of opinion.

The American people, of all others, should feel a deep, abiding interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the nation. On the face of God's green earth there is not a land where all the elements so combine to add to our comfort, our wealth and prosperity.

Never since our country was established as a nation has there been a period when there has been such great anxiety, such painful forebodings, as at present. Dark, portentous clouds hang over us, threatening to pour down a deluge to sweep away all that we have been taught to prize.

I propose, Mr. Speaker, briefly, in considering the proposition which the resolutions embrace and make reference to, to consider the wants and our course of conduct in the past, present and future. These are three great divisions of time, and eternity can be no greater.

The past is gone, and is irrevocable—all the words and deeds of men are entered on the record—and whether they be wise or foolish, whether for weal or woe, they cannot be called, or by any human ingenuity erased; they will go down to succeeding ages, and will be taken cognizance of according to their deserts.

The future, Mr. Speaker, is ours, and if we are wise, may be improved. To this end let us apply ourselves. With a deep sense of our obligations and the sacredness of our trust; let us do nothing that will endanger our Union, let us do everything honorable to restore it to peace and safety.

There was then, as now, diversity of opinion and conflicting interests. In that Convention were wise and good men—our Washington, Franklin and Madison. They had much to encounter. Their difficulties at one time appeared to be almost insurmountable—they involved the throne of Heaven—they made concessions—they practiced conciliation, and as the first of their labors they formed an instrument which, for wisdom and admirable construction of checks and balances, stands unrivaled by anything that has emanated from man.

Under that Constitution we have prospered beyond any nation on the globe. It has been, and still is, the great bulwark of our past greatness—the palladium of our future hopes. Our territory has spread from the Bay of Fundy on the North, to the Gulf of Mexico on the South, and across the entire continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

But man, in his prosperity, becomes forgetful of his blessings, and in a spirit of defiance or arrogance will oft times destroy that which he should most carefully preserve.

We have heard from another, who stands also high in the estimation of a large party, "that the times demand, and we must have, an anti-slavery Constitution."

We have also heard from impious and profane lips that our Constitution was a covenant with Death and an agreement with Hell. And if the load-spotted traitor who made the utterance had been banished from the land, he would have had his just deserts.

No man will deny that the feeling which has given rise to these expressions, is a feeling of hostility against one of the institutions of the Southern States. That sentiment has been gradually growing, until it now pervades the majority in all the Northern States.

It has placed on our statute books unfriendly, if not unconstitutional laws, the obvious intention and effect of which are to nullify the Constitution of the United States, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, which are the supreme law of the land, and which legislators take a solemn oath, before Almighty God, that they will support.

It has been indefatigable in scattering fire brands, arrows and death, till they have so far been successful, as to array the eighteen Northern States, with their one hundred and eighty votes in the electoral college, against the fifteen Southern States, with their one hundred and twenty-three votes.

Aristotle, the great master of political science, has told us in one of his aphorisms, that revolutions do not take place for small causes, but from small causes. It was not merely the small cause of humanly more harmless, that does not threaten to deluge our country in blood, and which must inevitably lead to the most calamitous consequences.

So was it in ancient Rome. In her palmy days, when she had conquered the fairest portion of the earth and she was justly styled the mistress of the world, lawless ambition plotted destruction and at the foot of Pompey's statue, (which the poet writes, all the while ran blood), great Caesar fell, and in the ears of astonished men the cry was "Havoc, and let slip the dogs of war." Her streets were deluged with the blood of her citizens. Brother fought with brother; and she fell from her high estate, and now her name stands on the page of history as a by-word and a reproach.

To save my country from the calamity of civil war with all its terrible consequences, I advise, with all earnestness, at this present time, that we pass no resolutions but such as shall breathe a spirit of peace and conciliation. Let us entirely exhaust all honorable means; let us exercise forbearance; let us counsel together; let us make all honorable sacrifices—and when all shall fail, if fail they must, then, and not till then, will we be justified in proposing the means of war.

Let us be ready to enter the field and jeopard my life, my all, as he who cries the loudest; but the time is, in my opinion, not yet at hand. Our endeavor should be to avert the calamity—to still the storm—to restore quietude. The gentleman from Allegheny advises extirpation; the use of fire and the sword; the implements of death. His counsel I do not approve of. I will not share the awful responsibility. I will use all my best efforts against it. I will vote against every resolution that looks toward such a purpose; and in doing so I will feel my course clear. I will feel that I am supported by the whole Democratic party of the noble Keystone State. I will feel that my course will be approved of by a very large majority of the conservatives—the good men of all parties; and if war, with all its horrors, shall be prevented, and the Union saved, and the stars and stripes still float to the gentle breeze of Heaven, I will rejoice with a heart full of gratitude and praise to him, who is Lord over all and holds in His hand the destiny of the Nation.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. SPEAKER, we have arrived at strange times. A part of our Union is now in open rebellion. Another part, our sister States of the border, yet remain friendly.

It will be recollected that sometimes ago there was a great contest in the North, a party whose spirit was eternal hostility to the South. That party seems to have been swallowed up; but there is before this House this evening conclusive evidence that the sentiments of that abolition party yet survive. It is now a time to cast our hands round us—to tell the South that

they are asking of us to bow in submission to them, and to eat dirt at their bidding? Is that the language which should be held at this time? My opinion is that a different position is much the wiser and better.

I propose to say a few words in regard to those portions of that act of 1860 which it is proposed to repeal. My friends from Jefferson (Mr. Gordon) and Philadelphia (Mr. Abbott) contend that there is nothing in any of those sections conflicting with the Constitution. I take an entirely different view. I consider parts of those sections to be unconstitutional. I think they should be blotted out, and I will give my reasons.

We have presented to us petitions from thousands of citizens asking for their abrogation; but we have not a single petition asking that they shall still be retained upon our statute book. The gentleman from Jefferson has declared that in his portion of the country the people are of opinion that the ninety-fifth and ninety-sixth sections should remain. In regard to my country, I may say that, if I am rightly informed, there are fifteen thousand voters there who wish that portion of those sections should be blotted from our statute book. I have not spoken to a Republican or Democrat in Luzerne county who does not wish for their repeal.

Mr. FRAZIER. I would like to ask the gentleman a question. Mr. BYRNE. I will answer a short one. Mr. FRAZIER. I would like to ask whether the gentleman did not vote for this same Penal Code last year.

Mr. BYRNE. I think not. I cannot say whether I did or not; I suppose not. But it is argued that these portions of our law should not be repealed. What reasons are given? It is said that because commissioners were appointed fully conversant with the laws and who reported these sections, and because our Democratic Governor signed the bill, these enactments should be retained.

At any rate, it is to be maintained that, because certain portions of our laws have, at some time received the approval of certain authorities, they shall never be modified or repealed, as subsequent circumstances may require? Have not the people spoken? Have not the members of the Legislature presume to change portions of this already perfect work. As to the statement that this code received the sanction of the Governor, let me remark that we do not always conform to the opinions of the Governor. Numerous bills, as we all know, have received the disapproval of the Governor; yet this House, not accepting his opinion, has, in its wisdom, presumed to disregard his recommendations. Hence, I say, that these arguments prove too much.

Suppose the gentleman from Jefferson (Mr. Gordon) had stolen from him his watch or his horse, or anything else of value, would he hesitate a moment in retaking his stolen property? But he is more imperatively called upon to do so, when necessary, in re-capturing a fugitive slave.

I think, sir, that the Constitution demands of us a repeal of those portions of our statutes which plainly interfere with the successful assertion of a Constitutional claim. Are we to throw a barrier in the way of the execution of that law? I take it that we are not to do so. The very act restricting the power of our State magistrates is contrary to the law of 1793, which was recommended by George Washington, and the constitutionality of which has been fully sustained.

We have already had, in the course of this debate, much citation of legal authority. Some lawyers, let me say, can make their law-books seem like musical instruments; they can make them perform various tunes at various times. I shall, therefore, take the liberty of reading an extract from the case already so much referred to—that of Frigg vs. the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I read from the decision of Chief Justice Story, at page 622:

"As to the authority so conferred upon State magistrates, while a difference of opinion has existed, and may still exist on the point, in the different States, whether State magistrates are bound to act under it, none is entertained by the courts, that State magistrates may, if they choose, exercise that authority unless prohibited by State legislation."

In the very face of this decision, we have enacted a law prohibiting our magistrates from taking jurisdiction of the case of a fugitive slave. Is this carrying out our constitutional obligations? Our constitutional duty has been declared by the highest authority. If this House should pass an enactment declaring a law constitutional or unconstitutional, it would not decide the point. But is not the meaning of the Constitution plain in its face? The Constitution says that fugitive slaves "shall be delivered up." Does not that give the owner the right to re-capture his slave? Is language to have any meaning? But the law of Pennsylvania says the State Judge shall not act; the State officers shall not act; they shall not deliver up to the master a runaway slave. Here is our enactment in direct contradiction of the words of the Constitution. Under the laws of Pennsylvania the master cannot exercise his constitutional right; he dare not do it.

On the law question before us, we have had offered to us some English authorities. I do not care that some English books are sometimes cited—things that may be laughed at. In other cases such authorities may be very good law. When the repeal of these sections has been recommended by our late Governor—when it has been recommended in the Inaugural of our present Governor—when we have had hundreds of petitions demanding their repeal—when we have, too, not a single petition presented demanding that these enactments shall remain in force, should we hesitate as to the propriety of removing from our statute books these objectionable provisions? What can prompt their retention but a spirit of hostility to the South?

The gentleman from Schuylkill (Mr. Bartholomew), has declared that Pennsylvania is not in favor of re-capturing slaves. I cannot agree with that gentleman. Is it to be said that Pennsylvania is not in favor of fulfilling her sworn obligations to the Constitution? Pennsylvania not in favor of discharging her

duty! I cannot agree with the gentleman; such an idea is a total misconception.

I regret that the gentleman hurls the whole blame of our present difficulties upon us few unfortunate Democrats. I cannot agree with the gentleman. Does he not remember to have heard through the newspapers of the day—newspapers of his own county—does he not remember to have heard before the election that "slavery and polygamy are twin-rites of barbarism?" Where did that sentiment emanate? Did not the Chicago Convention nominate the very man who had declared that this Union, as it has existed from the time of our fathers, cannot stand States? Who was it that made a motion that the word "National," should be struck from your platform? Does not the gentleman remember that incident of the Chicago convention?

Mr. PATTERSON. Will the gentleman from Luzerne allow me to ask him a question? Mr. BYRNE. Yes, sir.

Mr. PATTERSON. I should like to ask the gentleman whether Mr. Lincoln did say that this Union cannot be maintained? Mr. BYRNE. Yes, sir; he said so in Illinois in 1858.

Mr. PATTERSON. Can the gentleman produce the authority? Mr. BYRNE. I think I can; I have not it here at present; but I think I can. I presume the fact is patent to every gentleman who has read the newspapers, and I am astonished that my friend should ask me such a question. I did not suppose there was a politician in the land who was not familiar with that declaration of Mr. Lincoln's.

Mr. BYRNE. Was it that the representatives of the slave States were hissed when the names of their States were called in the Chicago convention? Who was it that made a motion in that convention that no delegate from a slave State should be received there?

Gentlemen, I do not mention these things in any harsh spirit; but accusations have been hurled upon me and my party, and I hurl them back.

Sir, I have never believed that by virtue of the Constitution slavery exists in the Territories. I have never believed that Stephen A. Douglas was in favor of re-capturing slaves. I have believed him to be in favor of popular sovereignty; and those gentlemen who will take the trouble to read his speeches will see clearly pointed out the distinction between squatter and popular sovereignty.

Mr. ABBOTT. I ask the gentleman's pardon. Mr. BYRNE. It is granted before you ask. Mr. ABBOTT. I ask the gentleman's pardon and that of the adherents of Mr. Douglas, if I used the word "squatter." I intended to say popular sovereignty. I admit my mistake, and I desire to correct it.

Mr. BYRNE. All right, sir. Popular Sovereignty is the government of the people, and who is against that? Does the gentleman from Philadelphia (Mr. Abbott) oppose that? Does he pretend that the people should not govern in all places? Certainly he cannot be against that doctrine. The position of Stephen A. Douglas is, that when a portion of our territory has been organized as a territory by act of Congress, then the power to exclude or to allow slavery vests in the people. I have heard nothing to contradict that doctrine. I have heard no argument that can make a province of a territory. I have heard no argument that can take away from the people their rights in a territory. If a citizen of Pennsylvania goes to a territory, does he leave behind him all his political power? The affirmative of this will hardly be maintained.

As I have said, I would, at a time like this, hold out the olive-branch to our sister States. I care nothing for South Carolina. Against such a cause as her hostility to the Union I would place myself in the foremost rank of an army, such as that of Mr. Donald at the battle of Wagram, where, out of fifteen thousand men, fifteen hundred overthrew the Austrians, and gained the victory. I care nothing for South Carolina—rebels ought to be treated as they deserve. But those who love this glorious Union should stand up and maintain it whole and undivided forever.

MR. DOUGLAS'S SUBSTITUTE PROPOSED TO BE OFFERED SHOULD MR. CRITTENDEN'S RESOLUTIONS FAIL TO PASS. Amendments Proposed to the Constitution of the United States.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN.—Sec. 1. Congress shall make no laws in respect to domestic servitude in any Territory of the United States; and all Territorial governments shall be formed on the model and in the terms of the organic acts approved September nine, eighteen hundred and fifty, called "The Organic Acts." and the validity of all Territorial enactments shall be finally determined by the Supreme Court of the United States, on appeal, or writ of error from the Territorial courts; but no new Territory shall be organized until it shall contain twenty thousand white inhabitants; nor shall any new State be admitted into the Union until it shall contain the requisite population for a representative in Congress, according to the then federal ratio of representation.

Sec. 2. Congress shall have no power to abolish or alter the relation of persons held to service or labor in any State, under the laws thereof; nor in any place under the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress, and situate within the limits of any State or Territory under whose laws persons are held to service or labor; nor shall Congress have power to abolish or impair the relation of persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia, under the laws in force therein, without the consent of the majority of the electors of the Territory shall exist in either of those States under the laws thereof; nor shall Congress have power to interfere with or prevent the removal of persons held to service or labor from one State or Territory to another.

Sec. 3. The African slave trade shall be forever suppressed; and it shall be the duty of Congress to make such laws as will effectually prevent the immigration or importation into the United States of persons held to service or labor for life or for a period years, or of any person intended to be so held in any State or place within the United States, under any pretense whatever.

Sec. 4. The second clause of the second section of the fourth article of the Constitution shall be construed to include all crimes committed within and against the State or place from which the fugitive fled, whether the acts charged were criminal or not in the place where the fugitive was found.

Sec. 5. The elective franchise and the right to hold office, whether federal, State, territorial or municipal, shall not be exercised by persons of the African race, in whole or in part.

Sec. 6. The United States shall have power to acquire districts of country in Africa or South America, for the colonization, at the expense of the federal treasury, of such free negroes and mulattoes as the several States may desire to have removed from within their limits, and from the District of Columbia, and such other places as may be under the jurisdiction of Congress.

Sec. 7. Whenever any person held to service or labor, as provided in the third clause of the second section of the fourth article of the Constitution, shall escape, and the marshal or