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The Patriot & Union.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 16 1863.

REMARKS OF HON. WILLIAM HOPKINS, OF WASHINGTON.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 9, 1863.

On Joint Resolutions on the state of the country.

Mr. SPEAKER: The magnitude of the issues involved in the question before us must be my apology for trespassing upon the indulgence of the House at this late hour of the session.

Before proceeding to the discussion of the resolutions, I desire to strip the subject of the mists thrown around it by the political range delivered on last night by the learned and eloquent gentleman from Allegheny, (Mr. Shannon.)

Whatever may be said of the length of that speech, or of its applicability to the subject under discussion, all will agree that its logic was irresistible.

Had a stranger chance to enter this hall during the first two hours of the gentleman's speech, he would have supposed that a political gathering of partisans was assembled here, and that the orator was arranging the great Democratic party upon a charge of inconsistency.

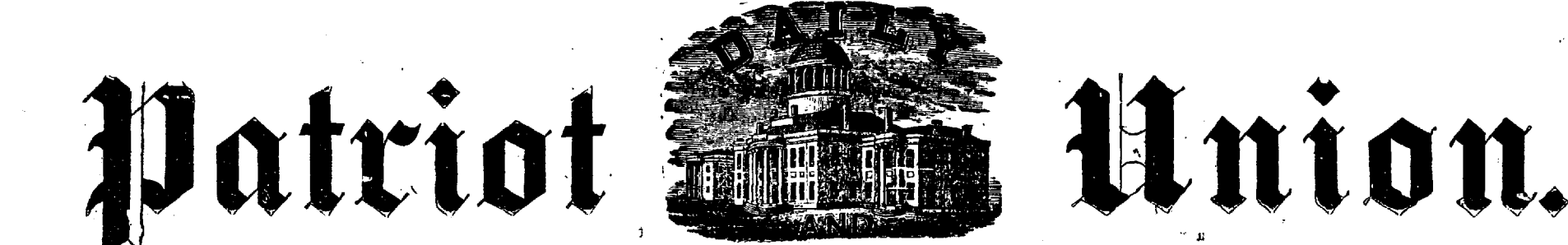
Mr. Speaker, I must confess that my powers of perception did not enable me to see the relevancy of this part of the gentleman's speech to the questions under discussion.

Suppose, sir, we concede that the Democratic party has been inconsistent upon this question, or that it has been even as variable upon all questions as the opposition party.

With which the gentleman himself is now identified with its varied names, how would that affect the present condition of our country?

Sir, in the present and trying hour, when the pillars of our glorious Republic seem to be crumbling, and the temple of our liberties rocking on its foundation stones, it would be more patriotic and statesmanlike to strive to prevent its utter overthrow, than to indulge in tirades about party persistency.

But to the logic of the gentleman from Allegheny. He told us that a Democratic convention was held in the city of Pittsburgh in 1849, at which a resolution was adopted against the farther extension of slavery.



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ing which he even used the polite and classic expression, that he would "spit upon it."

And in reply to a committee of his political friends from Ohio, who urged him to proclaim liberty to the slaves, he used the following truthful and significant language:

"What would a proclamation of emancipation from me do, especially as we are now situated? I do not want to issue a document that the whole world will see must necessarily be inoperative like the Pope's bull against the comet.

"And here, permit me to inquire, what new light has been shed upon the President, since he told his countrymen, under the solemnities of his oath of office, that he had no power, under the Constitution to interfere with slavery in the States?

Mr. Speaker, I can regard the Abolition proclamation of the President in no other light than as "an assumption of power, not delegated by the Constitution and laws of the country, but in derogation of both."

"Resolved, That the present deplorable civil war has been forced upon the country by the disunionists of the Southern States, now in arms against the Constitutional Government, and in arms around the Capital;

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to bear the ill we have than flee to others that we know not of." And, above all, I am opposed to such a change being brought about by a total disregard of constitutional obligations.

Sir, if this power that is now claimed by the administration be acquiesced in without, at least, protesting against it, then indeed is the pertinency of the interrogatory, "Whither are we drifting?" most apparent.

Yes, sir, the test of loyalty set up by certain partisans, army contractors and others, is unwarranted approval of every enormity committed, and made it be the robbery of the Treasury by hundreds of millions, or the arbitrary arrests of private citizens at the mere caprice of some vindictive subordinate, without due process of law.

Mr. Speaker, in my judgment, true loyalty consists in the citizen rendering to the government, in time of war, either foreign or domestic, his honest services, such as they were, that did many of the disinterested patriots who are now so ready to talk about "sympathy with the rebellion."

Mr. Speaker, I will not believe that any farther advance will be made in the direction I have indicated—I will cling to the old, but better, course which I have indicated.

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must not dread the consequences. Blood must flow in this war. "But so impressed am I with the greatness of the interests engaged in this rebellion, and its importance, so satisfied of the inconceivable importance of the struggle that opens up before us in the suppression of this rebellion, that I speak it meaningfully, and as a Christian, deliberately and calmly, that I would rather see every woman and child in the South perish than that the Southern Confederacy should succeed in attaining the objects of its leaders."

Sir, this occurred in the land of Penn., the "City of Brotherly Love," in the beautiful meadows of our great Old Commonwealth, and I blush to know that such fiendish sentiments could receive applause in such a place, even amongst Republicans; but, I rejoice to know that neither there, or elsewhere, could a Democrat be found base enough to countenance such brutality.

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from the subjugating attacks of Europe. For all this happiness—for all this prosperity—for all this freedom—for all this wealth, power and renown—for all our glorious hopes of the future—what have we now? Abraham Lincoln and the negro! Abraham Lincoln and his questionable and unconstitutional policy!

Let us look at our history for a moment.—When we examine the Declaration of Independence it will be seen by every man that the thirteen colonies were separate and distinct, and having separate and distinct charters, each to their governments, as to the power of one over another, as England is to-day to control America.

By the same voluntary consent the thirteen colonies met in Congress; (a word a knowledge of the meaning of which—a coming together—seems to be lost or forgotten by many); two years later, in 1776, these thirteen colonies declared themselves to be free and independent States, basing that declaration upon the same broad principle of voluntary consent.

Mr. Speaker, had we Abraham Lincoln and his party, rested upon this great landmark of our fathers, we would not to-day have been considering these resolutions on the state of the country, we would not have met here from every household cold in death.

By the same voluntary consent eleven of the States put the new government into effect in the year 1789, Rhode Island, breaking the continuity of the territory of the new confederation in the east; North Carolina and Virginia breaking in the south between the States of Georgia and South Carolina; New York, the Empire State, breaking the same continuity and dividing the States of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire from Pennsylvania.

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SPEECH

HON. C. R. EARLEY, OF ELK COUNTY.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 8, 1863.

On the Resolutions on the State of the Country. Mr. SPEAKER: Before casting my vote on the final passage of these resolutions, it may be proper for me to give my views in a few words touching the present state of our country, and why I am found voting for the resolutions as they are.

It is well known that the resolutions now before this House do not in every particular meet my views; but they are as near right as we can as a party agree upon at this time, and I shall therefore vote for them.

Three years ago we possessed a country the most prosperous and one of the most powerful upon the face of the earth. Twenty-seven millions of the Caucasian race of men had attained in it almost unlimited personal and political liberty, and four millions of the African race had reached a civilization never attained by an equal number of them in any other country or in any other age.