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Patriot Union.

VOL. 5—NO. 241. HARRISBURG, PA., THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1863. PRICE TWO CENTS.

The Patriot & Union.

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, 1863.

SPEECH OF THOMAS JEFFERSON BOYER, REPRESENTATIVE FROM CLEARFIELD, JEFFERSON, M'KEAN AND SELK, Delivered in the House of Representatives, April 2, 1863, on the Joint Resolutions on the state of the country.

Mr. BOYER said: Mr. SPEAKER: When I came into this hall this afternoon I did not think that it would become necessary for me to claim the attention of the House and occupy any part of the time which should, perhaps, be devoted to the use of gentlemen here who have legislation of a different character to attend to.

Mr. SPEAKER: When I came into this hall this afternoon I did not think that it would become necessary for me to claim the attention of the House and occupy any part of the time which should, perhaps, be devoted to the use of gentlemen here who have legislation of a different character to attend to.

Now, sir, how does the gentleman from Huntington, or the party of which he is so faithful a member, propose to abolish slavery? In a legal way by amendment to the Constitution? No, sir. No. They know full well that proclamations avail nothing but to prove the imbecility and ignorance of their authors, and they know full well that an amendment to the Constitution to abolish slavery, would require the ratification of three-fourths of the States, and is therefore in this case unattainable.

Now, suppose this scheme of armed law-making and law-breaking is carried out, who will venture, even after our bitter experience, to foretell the issue? Who will say that invasion and disasters in its train, will be confined to the South? By what means will the Union, or any of its fragments, carry on this war?

Mr. SPEAKER, when the gentleman made his attack upon the potential influence of the ballot box, he did it with increased bitterness no doubt in anticipation of the damaging effect which that peaceful, silent and constitutional monitor would soon have upon those who now are growing fat and sleek on the public pap.

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passion or resentment, will recollect only its duty to the whole country; that this war is not waged on their part in any spirit of oppression, or for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, or purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of those States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution, and to preserve the Union, with all the dignity, equality and rights of the several States unimpaired; and that as soon as these objects are accomplished the war ought to cease."

This resolution was then the standard of the Union; the purposes here avowed were the commendable objects of the war; and every patriot heart in the North responded to that declaration. But behold the change! Congress, at the regular session, which opened in December following, refused to reaffirm this wise resolution; and subsequent events have shown that it was at the dictation of the administration. And now what do we find? A war for the Union to subdue a careless rebellion? No, sir; no, we have, instead, a war for the abolition of slavery, and (I hesitate not to say it) a war to establish the heresies of the Republican party, and to afford an opportunity for a general system of wholesale plundering of the government, thereby forcing upon the people an increase of taxation, already enormous, and far beyond the abilities of many to pay.

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system of doing things is a most villainous, systematic cheat, for which every man who is concerned in it deserves to be recorded in a register of infamy. Imposture never ran such an uninterrupted career as it has for one year past in the National administration and in Congress.

This mode of speaking will doubtless be objected to by our friends on the other side; but, sir, there is no language too strong for the exposure and execution of such conduct as has distinguished the party in power. By holding them up to merited contempt before the public, a due corrective will, I trust, be administered. If there is a sense of real religion in my friend, or among those of his party who are making such loud professions, then I would say that the law of God calls for "sack-cloth and ashes."

Let such penitents as my friend from Huntington imitate Zacheus of old, who said, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give unto the poor, and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him four-fold." Let the gentleman from Huntington do this, and I will have some faith in his professions of piety, Christianity, &c.

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gentleman from Huntington belongs to a party which was made by fends incarnate, who pretended to preach the gospel in New York and New England, and who believe that the Constitution is "a covenant with death and an agreement with hell," and who, more than all others, are responsible for this cruel and only war. They have for years descended to make common cause with those who have published the gospel ministry of the country as a brotherhood of thieves, by whom the community have been urged to trample on the laws and to crush the Constitution of their country under foot. Need I say that I allude to the Beechers, the Cheevers, the Chapins, and the whole rascally brood of those who, Sunday after Sunday, preach nothing but insubordination to law and disobedience to God? Yes, Mr. SPEAKER, they are the founders of Abolitionism and the beings from whom the gentleman from Huntington has learned his creed.

We should look at this subject as stewards of the great gifts bequeathed to us by our forefathers. If there are dangers abroad, that threaten the whole community alike, that there is an evil in our borders, a great and perhaps an increasing evil—one which we must unite in checking or removing, if removal or check be possible—is well known to us all. I mean the Pandora's box of Northern fanaticism, uncovered by the gentleman who preceded me. It is impossible that we can be deceived on this subject. The signs of the times are too portentous to be misconstrued or unheeded. Already we hear the muttering thunder coming from the cloud which is stretching far and wide above our moral horizon, speaking a tone too deep to be unheeded—a language too plain to be misunderstood.

It tells us we are called on to defend from profane hands the ark of our political and religious liberty—to preserve from encroachment that Constitution which has poured upon our land the abundance of prosperity. "A power subtler than brute force, and mightier than armed man is at work"—the power of Abolitionism—the omnipotence of religious fanaticism. Let the people slumber on—let them sit with social apathy beneath the wide spreading branches of this *bohun upas*—let them fold their arms in quiet—and ere long a voice will break upon the ear in a storm of ruin.

Mr. SPEAKER, I am no alarmist, but it is right that we should know our friends and watch our enemies. Who, then, are they who scatter ruin and desolation, mildew and blight, havoc and death in the Eden bowers of our once happy land? I answer, fearless of contradiction, (and I can speak plainly in this House) the leaders of the miserable and religious liberty to the enraged adders to divert their attention, they cease not their pursuit till they have obtained their lost treasure or the body of their plunderer. The Democratic party, with its zeal for the welfare of the country, and for the preservation of the Government in its original purity and dignity, was compelled to yield to fanaticism the administration of the government which it had for nearly three quarters of a century kept steadily in the path of prosperity and greatness.

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