

Shall the Cable be Cut?

A few days ago a steam tug was towing a pair of very large coal boats down the Ohio. They had got along easily several hundred miles, when a furious storm came up. It soon became apparent that the flat boats, with their black cargo, were doomed to go down; and then the question arose as to the expediency of cutting the cable, for if it was cut the boats would drift out, the steam tug was saved.

Our National Government has been towing slavery along ever since it left port, some eighty years ago.

It is true that it has impeded our progress very much, and has given a great deal of trouble; but we had a contract with the world, and we cannot now turn back. We cannot cut the cable without a violation of our contract. As happened to the boats on the Ohio, we have got into a tremendous storm, and, as was the case with the coal boats, it is now clear that the tug is to be done and must go down. Shall we cut the cable? "No," say many, "we must not do that; it will be a violation of our contract." "But," say others, "it is sinking, and will carry us down with it. We must cut it out from under us. And so the whole National crew is agitated and divided as to whether the cable shall be cut. Already the strain upon the vessel of State is terrible; but the commander, who holds the axe in his hand, hesitates—hesitates anxiously to the clamors of the opposing parties, and looks with seeming bewilderment at the sinking property alongside, and sees on either side anxious eyes at the lowering and angry heavens, which threaten still more furious blasts. He may hesitate too long; for there are billions at stake; and he will sweep him and his axe overboard. Then all will go down together, leaving the crew to save themselves as they can.

Now, Sir, Will You Tell Me If I Am Free?

The statements of Mr. Pierce, the Government Agent at Port Royal, as well as of all others from that quarter, establish these facts: that no negro who has entered our lines has been recognized as a free man; that great care has been taken that no negro shall go to a free state; and that a careful note is made of each rebel who has owned one of these slaves.

Mr. Cowan's Speech.

We give the main argument of this extraordinary production to-day. We cannot utter ourselves now to characterize it as it deserves. We feel too deeply mortified at the deception which has been practiced upon the millions of freemen of Pennsylvania, and whom Mr. Cowan was presented as a candidate for the Senate. A fatal mistake has been committed. The true and able champion of the Union, the true and able champion of Republican principles, one who would retrieve the tarnished honor of the State, and redeem it from the disgrace inflicted by such a man as Thomas M. Cowan. How the mistake happened we do not know. Those who were active in pressing his claims have much to answer for to the party. The mistake cannot now be rectified, and must be borne as best it may.

Who are the True Friends of the Constitution?

Mr. Forney, in a letter to the Press, in discussing the question of the future policy of the Government, in relation to the rebellion after the war, speaks of the attempts of the Backward-looking Democrats to effect reconstruction. He will bring back into power their late Secession associates. "Thus," he says, "it is that we find them opposing all legislation which looks to the condign punishment of the rebels, and to the forfeiture of their property. Such acts being according to their theory, a violation of the Constitution, must not be attempted. They will clamor for a trial by jury for Buchner, Floyd, Davis, Benjamin, and Beauregard, and when this is conceded, will intrude for their acquittal, hailing the occasion as another opportunity to offer a premium for treason, and to divide and degrade the people of the loyal States. Cold and callous while their country is bleeding at all its veins, they will be most merciful and magnanimous to its betrayers."

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