THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE
AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

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Mr. Irish on Emancipation and the Pro-Slavery Democracy.

In the debate in the Senate of Pennsylvania on the resolutions in favor of the Emancipation policy of the Government in the Border States and District of Columbia, Mr. Irish spoke as follows:

The Senators from Berks and Clarion do not keep up with the march of events. They are floundering in a sea of obsolete ideas. They do not seem to realize the mighty changes which have taken place and are still going on. They speak as though we were still in the midst of the political contest of 1860. The idea of the Senator from Berks, that he occupies a middle position, that he stands, as he phrases it, "mid-way between the fanaticism of the North and the madness of the South," is a deception and a snare.

There is no such position. The time for such language has gone by. He ought to know by this time that he must stand with the friends of his country or with its enemies. There are but two parties in the nation at this day; one is trying to destroy the government, and the other is striving to save it. He can not serve both. He must be for the one, and against the other. They have spoken of the Constitution, as though there was something in these resolutions which, if adopted, would utterly destroy that instrument forever. They have spoken of the Constitution as an immense Bastile in which three millions of slaves were confined. As though all its provisions were bars and bolts to keep down the weak. That is not the theory of our government. This glorious Constitution of ours is not a Bastile or a prison house, for the purpose of either oppressing or enslaving men. It is a great temple, into every part of which the light of liberty was intended to shine. When they declare against violating the Constitution they defend that which has not been assailed.

If they would point out wherein either the resolutions, or the speeches which have been made in support of them, are inconsistent with the Constitution, their objections might be understood. But they say the Constitution, when they *mean* slavery. If the word slavery was substituted for Constitution throughout their argument, then their remarks would be intelligible, for it is slavery and not the Constitution which is assailed, and it is slavery and not the Constitution which they defend.

Throughout this entire discussion, the Democratic Senators have spoken of the rebels—I do not mean a few of the leaders, who, they say, should be hanged, but, with that exception, they have spoken of the main body of the rebels as entitled to the same protection as loyal men, as to their slave property. Whenever we have urged that the slaves of rebels should be free, they have invoked the protection of the Constitution in behalf of these rebels. They discuss the question as though the government was under the same obligation to guarantee to the rebels the possession of their slave property now, as that which existed before the rebellion. Here is the great dividing line between you and us.

I hold that the government is absolved from all such obligations, so far as the rebels are concerned. By their acts of secession, formally made and solemnly declared—by their persistent repudiation both of the protection and the authority of the government—by their attitude of open rebellion—by their acts of open war upon the government, they have forfeited all rights under the Constitution.

It is worse than folly to invoke the provisions of that instrument for the protection of their slave property. Yet when you speak of freeing their slaves, the Constitution, the compromises of the Constitution, and the guarantees of the Constitution, is the constant cry of these Democratic Senators.

The Democratic members of this body, it seems, have determined to vote against the resolution endorsing the President's message, recommending that Congress should assist the border slave States in carrying out a system of gradual emancipation, allowing a reasonable compensation to the slave owners for the loss of their slaves. I remember, one year ago, when the Legislature appropriated half a million of dollars towards preparing and arming the State, for the great struggle now going on—the Democracy then voted against every measure and every dollar dedicated to that object.

I remember, too, that they repented of it, and came back here at the extra session and voted three millions of money in addition to the five hundred thousand dollars they had previously voted against appropriating. So it will be with regard to this question. If you refuse to sanction the just, reasonable, moderate and conservative propositions here submitted, you will come back hereafter to meet the same question in a worse form.

Compel the government to waste the energies of the nation in protecting slavery, instead of hurling destruction at the rebellion. Oppose and defeat every effort and measure made to relieve the government of the embarrassment occasioned by the claims of the loyal slave owners of the south. Prevent compensation, prevent gradual emancipation, hinder every project for doing justice in a systematic and peaceable manner to the loyal people, until additional millions shall have been consumed, until a few more thousand of our devoted brothers in the field shall have been sacrificed, and until the whole north shall have become exasperated and maddened to desperation against the rebellion, against slavery, and against the whole south, and they will sweep slavery from existence with fearful vengeance and rapidity. It will then be no longer possible to discriminate between the loyal and the disloyal. All will then have to suffer because you refuse now to adopt the necessary measures to avoid these consequences.

I contend that we who urge the adoption of these just, humane and beneficent measures, are the truly moderate, conservative and reasonable friends of the government. We are also the true friends of the loyal men of the south. Slavery is doomed, but we offer them compensation for the loss of their slaves. We are for doing that peaceably and equitably, which, if preferred, will be done ruthlessly and suddenly.

The Great Event of the Session.

Mr. Forney, in his letter to the Philadelphia *Press*, says:

The passage of the bill by the Senate, yesterday evening, to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, is the great event of the session. You must not be misled by the fact that, because none but Republicans voted for it, therefore it is obnoxious to those who did not go for it on the final vote. With about four exceptions, nearly all the opposition favored emancipation here in some shape. This is certainly true of Senator Wright, of Indiana, Senator McDougal, of California, Senator Henderson, of Missouri, and Senator Willey, of Virginia. The colonization policy, originating with the able Senator, Mr. Doolittle, of Wisconsin, was engrafted on the bill by a decisive vote—an amendment that will be most satisfactory to the President, who is known to favor this course, having suggested it in his annual message. The fate of the bill in the House is easy to predict, but the sooner it is passed into law the better for all concerned. The effect of of this great act of deliverance will be most healthy in this country and in the Old World. It is shown that the statesmen of our day are not afraid to meet the issue of the political campaign, and the war campaigns; and also that, while there is every determination to strike at slavery wherever this can be done, there is no purpose to exercise doubtful powers or to ignore the constitutional rights of any portion of the people.

Important from Kentucky.

LOUISVILLE, April 3, 1862.

I have just returned from a jaunt through the outskirts of Dixie. The most prominent of the rebels who lately infested Southern Kentucky have gone further South, in search of more rights. The say-nothing variety of this style of reptile are sulky, stubborn and bitter, waiting patiently for something to turn up, and Spartanizing themselves for that sanguinary "last ditch." While at Paducah, I learned some facts which may or may not be important, one of which is that a continual stream of rebels is crossing the rebel lines and spreading themselves over the loyal States. They are boastful and confident of success, plainly intimating that something is going to happen soon that will annihilate the "Lincoln Government." *I have no doubt that there is a secret treasonable conspiracy extending throughout the loyal States.* Our Government is too liberal to be equal, if not superior to any in this respect. Men should not be permitted to talk treason. Traitors should be punished. Swearing them down no good. Our large and patriotic army is now in the heart of the enemy's country, suffering privations and sickness, while a class—and I fear not a small one—is at home enjoying the blessings of this Government while plotting with enemies to compass its destruction.

I conversed with two of these delegates just from Dixie, who were quite confidential. One who had traveled through Arkansas said that nearly every man in that State had enlisted since the Fort Donelson affair; that only one or two old men were left in each neighborhood. Both agreed in saying that for every rebel captured thus far, ten had enlisted. The South has just woke up. "If Lincoln conquers the South, there will not be a live white man left in it, and a very few niggers," is the exact language used by one of them. All the bells in the South are being sent to New Orleans for the purpose of being made into cannon. At every landing on all the rivers leading to New Orleans, piles of bells, of all sorts and sizes, are awaiting transportation. All the cotton has been removed six or eight miles from rivers and railroads. No cotton will be raised this year, but plenty of corn. The cotton now on hand will be burned at the approach of the Federal army. Such is the opinion of the rebels.

But "the great thing which is to wipe out Lincoln," is an iron-clad gunboat of light draught, heavy guns, and *sixteen* BOILERS. Think of that, ye Cincinnatians, and tremble. It was taking in its guns and ammunition when my informant left. Other powerful iron boats were nearly completed. Oh! for a Monitor on Western waters!

The citizens of Southern cities and towns, who own no houses, are clamorous to burn all cities and towns at the approach of the Federal army. Did you ever notice the striking coincidence in the most disgusting features of this war? viz: those rebels who own no negroes and who could not buy a negroe's toenail, are the most exercised about the safety of the slavery institution, and the loafers and rounders in Southern cities who could not buy a pig sty, are clamorous for a conflagration. Such is secession.

The rebels in Kentucky, despairing of ever winning a battle, fall back upon John Morgan and his wonderful exploits. I do not believe that he is so guilty of one-half the outrages laid at his door by his secession associates. He used to be a high-toned gentleman, and would, at the time I know him, have scorned the imputation of petty thefts and wholesale robberies, the *summum bonum* of Secession excellence. What Secession has done for him, of course, cannot say.

If you want to see and experience a model Secession hotel, go to Paducah and stop at the St. Francis. If its patron saint was as abstemious, as self-denying and as dirty as its namesake, he will never be pushed for a Sybarite. It is a gloomy looking edifice, and after filling a jail. The guest ascends an iron staircase and finds himself in an oblong room, dark and dirty, with a bare table, one chair and four bogus sofas stationed around the walls. This is the office. In your room you find a pile of dust in the corners, dust over everything, an antediluvian washstand, a piece of looking glass, a damaged wardrobe, and a bed which was once a hair mattress