

LETTER

HON. EDWIN G. READE TO HIS CONSTITUENTS.

It has been said that a representative ought to be free to his constituents, in order that they may have the benefit of his information...

I have stated the danger, and the cause.—Now what is the remedy? And here I must regret that I can get no further aid from my distinguished colleague, Mr. Clingman.

Our country is of vast extent; of every variety of climate, soil, produce, population, and interests, and which, in an important government, several independent societies, united in one—

But I am sorry to be obliged to agree with him; but I desire to encourage the hope, that the storm which threatens to uproot, will only steady and make us the firmer.

But the danger which now threatens the existence of the Federal Union, arises from feelings of hostility entertained in the North towards the Southern section, and especially the institution of negro slavery as it exists among us.

My remedy is this: Join the American party and strike down foreignism, which is the main cause of abolitionism.

Here, then, you see, we had our quarrel, and we compromised it, and divided out the whole of our territory, and the country was quiet. How much it is to be regretted that it could not remain quiet.

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"There is too," a complete understanding between our enemies in Great Britain, and their allies in this country."

I have quoted this freely from Mr. Clingman's address to his constituents, in a public meeting, and his admitted ability, I thought it would be the most satisfactory proof to the administration party, with which he is acting; and also, because I design to use it for another purpose.

It appears, then, that we had our quarrel about slavery. We settled it, and were at rest. We are disturbed again upon the same subject, and threatened with destruction. And that disturbing cause is foreign influence.

Why will the Father of his Country warn us against the insidious wiles of foreign influence?"

It is not the testimony of Mr. Douglas, the leader of the party in Congress. It is being charged in the North that the Kansas bill was favorable to slavery, he wrote to the Concord, New Hampshire, Patriot, on the 16th of February, 1854, as follows:

"The whole of the Territory acquired from Mexico will at this moment have been dedicated to freedom forever by a constitutional provision."

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"And if the foreign Catholics, or foreigners generally, continue banded together, with a view of controlling the election of the country, there will be a complete antagonistic feeling in the hearts of all true Americans, which will sweep away the party to which they have attached themselves."

Thus spoke, and such were the sentiments of my distinguished colleague in the 25th Congress, Mr. Pierce, when he seems to have had a clear idea of the case, yet he was utterly at fault as to the remedy.

I do not charge the Democrats, as such, with Abolitionism; but I do charge the administration, in its party organization, of dealing falsely, now as heretofore, and that it has pandered to the Abolition influence; and I proceed to offer you the evidence which has satisfied me.

I next offer the testimony of the Union, the organ of the party, as follows: The Free-soil Democratic leaders of the North, a regular portion of the Democratic party, and General Pierce, did elect, will make no distinction between the rest of the Democrats in the distribution of official patronage, and in the selection of agents for administering the government."

"Why do they not state the matter truly, and state that it opens the country to freedom by leaving the people perfectly free to do as they please?"

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Now, are these things true? If they are not, why should the President say they are? Is it true that the Government of Kansas would not go to its post until four months after he was appointed?

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And it would, by its ruthless hand, long before this, have crushed out the last remains of its life. And in this respect, the Federal Executive, who were to assist in its development without a complete government, without any legislative authority, without local law, and, of course, without the ordinary guarantees of peace and public order.

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with all his experience and prudence, is not free from the same fault. Hear him: "The old Whig party, as you remember I predicted some years ago would be the case; no longer exists."

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He sacrificed himself with the conservative by courting the reactionists who make the noise. And now in doing so, he gathered around him the conservative reactionists, who are the friends of the majority. I know the contest will be a long one. But brave hearts, strong arms, and a good cause are ours. And the result can hardly be doubtful. "When you are about to decide in a case of moral importance, heed not the words of a mere creature; heed not the words of a mere man; but heed the words of God."

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