

And here we are naturally led to consider a doctrine which has recently been presented to the country under the most imposing circumstances. About a year ago a distinguished Senator from the State of New York, in an address to the people of that State, expressed his deliberate conviction that there is an inherent and irreconcilable antagonism between the systems of free and slave labor. He said: "Hitherto the two systems have existed in different States, but side by side within the American Union. This has happened because the Union is a confederation of States. But, in another aspect, the United States constitute only one nation. Increase of population, which is filling the States out to their very borders, together with a new and extended network of railroads and other avenues, and an internal commerce which daily becomes more intimate, is rapidly bringing the States into higher and more perfect social unity or consolidation. Thus these antagonistic systems are continually coming into closer contact, and collision results."

"Shall I tell you what this collision means? They who think that it is accidental, unnecessary, the work of interested or fanatical agitators, and therefore ephemeral, mistake the case altogether. It is an irrepressible conflict between opposing and enduring forces, and it means that the United States must and will, sooner or later, become either entirely a slaveholding nation or entirely a free-labor nation. Either the cotton and rice fields of South Carolina, and the sugar plantations of Louisiana, will ultimately be tilled by free labor, and Charleston and New Orleans become marts for legitimate merchandise alone, or else the rice fields and wheat fields of Massachusetts and New York must again be surrendered by their farmers to slave culture and to the production of slaves, and Boston and New York become once more markets for trade in the bodies and souls of men. It is the failure to apprehend this great truth that induces so many unsuccessful attempts at final compromise between the slave and free States, and it is the existence of this great fact that renders all such pretended compromises when made vain and ephemeral. * * * I know, and you know, that a revolution has begun. I know, and all the world knows, that revolutions never go backward."

The proposition is certainly a startling one, and it took the country by surprise. It involves an impeachment of the wisdom of the fathers of the Republic, and a condemnation of the Constitution of the United States, as an abortive effort to blend together in harmonious co-operation elements essentially incongruous and antagonistic. Is this proposition true? Does it embody the wisdom of a statesman, in the highest acceptance of the term, or is it a plea for a partisan, addressed to the jealous prejudices of a section? If the two systems of labor existed together, in the same localities, competing and interfering with each other, maintaining a constant rivalry, and provoking collisions, by constant efforts to supplant each other, there might be some ground for apprehending a conflict between them. But do the facts of the case justify any such assumption? On the contrary, does not the whole past history of the country negative the idea, and show that the tendency of the two systems is to separation, to the withdrawal of each from the field appropriate for the other, rather than to mutual aggression, collision, and conflict? Where, then, is the evidence of antagonism between them? Upon what facts does this orator, who is so swift to pronounce judgment of condemnation on Washington, and Hamilton, and Madison, and Jay, rely to maintain his mischievous dogma? If it be true, the alternative he offers is submission or disunion; abolition or revolution! Is the country prepared for such an alternative? Do our Northern brethren desire to press it upon us? The events of the next year may show. Their decision will derive new and fearful significance from events that have recently occurred within our borders. Should the sentiments of the Senator from New York be endorsed and adopted by the people of the North, it will be time for the people of the South to decide what course their interests and their honor and safety may require them to pursue.

I, for one, cannot believe that such an endorsement will be given. The solemn admonitions of Washington have not yet been forgotten by his countrymen. His prophetic wisdom foresaw the character of the appeals which "designing men" would make to local prejudices, and, in his Farewell Address, he warned the people against them in these impressive words: "In contemplating the cause which may disturb our Union, it seems as a matter of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations, Northern and Southern, whereby designing men may endeavor to incite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence with particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart-burnings which spring from these misrepresentations. They tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection."

Let the people of the United States look on this picture and on that! Here are the counsels of Washington—there the Senator from New York. Let the people choose between them! Washington teaches that while it may be the province of "designing men" to foment local jealousies, to ar-

ray section against section, to divide that they may rule as heads of the dominant faction, it is the higher and nobler mission of the patriot statesman to reconcile differences of opinion, to bring order out of chaos, to blend opposing forces into harmonious action for the public good. The idea that the tide of slavery, which for three-quarters of a century has been constantly receding from the North, is about to reverse its flow, is as absurd as to suppose that the waves of the Atlantic will again sweep over the crests of the Alleghenies. The people of the North cannot be imposed on by any such shallow sophistry. But, looking at the question in another aspect, has the South any thing to fear from Northern aggression? I answer unhesitatingly, nothing whatever. This answer is dictated not only by a reference to the provisions of the Federal Constitution, which forbid all such aggressions, but by other and still more cogent considerations. I know that constitutional restrictions, and parchment guarantees, and the rights intended to be guarded by them, may be trampled under foot, and therefore do not always present a safe bulwark of defence. But there is another, and, in deference to the nomenclature of the author of the doctrine on which I am commenting, I will call it "a higher law," which men never violate wilfully, and which will ever remain sure and steadfast—I mean the law of self-interest. If all higher considerations should fail—if the men of the North should be deaf to the appeals of justice—if they should prove regardless of all their constitutional and legal obligations, and feel disposed to violate the rights of the Southern States, they would be restrained from doing so by the knowledge of the fact that the blow which prostrated the interests of the South would inflict an immediate wound on the prosperity of the North. Where, then, I repeat, is the evidence of antagonism between the interests of the labor of the North and of the South? Those who are disposed to indulge in narrow and contracted views of subjects may fancy they see evidence of an "irrepressible conflict" between heat and cold, light and darkness, summer and winter, the centrifugal and centrifugal forces, and a thousand other objects in the material world which seem to be irreconcilable, yet under the rule of a wise and beneficent Providence how beautifully all these apparently opposing elements work together in harmony to accomplish the wonderful designs of Him whose hand directs the machinery of the universe!

When the scales are removed from the eyes of such as I have mentioned, they discern that the only discord was in their own wicked hearts, and that these antagonisms in the elements of nature was but harmony not understood! So it often happens, in regard to political affairs, that men whose minds are misled by local interests, or distorted by party prejudices, can see nothing in the progress of events but evidences of conflicting interests and "irrepressible conflicts," while to those who survey the same objects from a loftier stand-point every element is seen to be performing its appropriate functions for the development of some wise and beneficent result. How strangely must that mind be constituted which can perceive a tendency to antagonism in two systems which move in different orbits, and have entirely different functions to perform; systems widely separated geographically, and whose influence is felt only in the benefits which they reciprocally confer on each other! Southern labor is devoted to the production of articles unsuited to the climate and labor of the free States. Its great staples are cotton, sugar, tobacco, and rice. Of these but one, tobacco, and that to a small extent only, can be produced north of the Delaware. On the other hand, the labor of the free States is directed to the cultivation of grain and the feeding of live-stock, and to manufactures and commerce, and other pursuits which are better adapted to the habits of their people and the qualities and peculiarities of their soil and climate. How, then, can the labor of one section come into competition with that of the other? Do not the productions of the North find their best markets in the South? Are not the slaves of the planting States the largest consumers of the coarse woollens, and cottons, and shoes, and hats made by the labor of the North? Do not the planters also buy a large portion of the finer goods, and furniture, and hardware, and machinery, and carriages, and saddlery, and agricultural implements manufactured at the North? And does not the South supply the North with its cotton, and sugar, and rice, and tobacco, and other commodities in their crude condition, ready to be converted by the labor and skill of the North into the most valuable subjects of commerce? How, then, can there be antagonism between two sections of country, and two systems of labor, whose productions and whose avocations are so widely different? Antagonism implies opposition, rivalry, competition, the interference of one with the other. But here there is nothing of the kind. Neither produces what the other can profitably produce; on the contrary, each produces precisely what the other cannot produce, but what the other needs. Each offers to the other a good market for what it has to sell. An exchange, mutually beneficial, takes place between them. Both are enriched by it. The product of slave labor helps to pay the wages of the free labor of the North, and the product of free labor helps to pay to the owners of slaves the expense which he incurs and the profit which he makes by his opera-

tions on his plantation. Each section, and each system, consequently, contributes to the prosperity and wealth of the other. They are mutual benefactors instead of antagonists. The relations between the two systems have become so intimate and so interwoven with each other that they can no longer be regarded as separate, independent systems, but are in fact harmonious elements of one great system of American labor. The truth of this proposition will be manifest if we will turn our thoughts for a moment to the consequences which would ensue from a disturbance of the relations which now happily subsist between these elements. If slavery were, by common consent, abolished throughout the United States, we cannot doubt that the consequences would be similar to those which followed emancipation in the British West India Islands. Wherever the negro is found his nature is the same. Their indisposition to labor has become proverbial. It exhibits itself not only in their native country and in the sultry climate of the South, but also amidst the bustle and activity of the Northern and Western cities in which they congregate. They labor only under the pressure of necessity, and only to the extent which that necessity imperatively requires. As soon, therefore, as the discipline and compulsory authority of the master was withdrawn they would sink into habits of idleness, which would leave the plantations of the Southern States, like those of Jamaica, desolate and uncultivated. They would seek a precarious subsistence by irregular effort and by deprecations on the property of those around them. The production of the great staples of the South would rapidly diminish, and ultimately they would cease to be articles of export. White labor could not be substituted, because experience has shown that the white race cannot endure the exposure to the sun and atmosphere which is necessary for the production of cotton, tobacco, sugar and rice. The abolition of slavery would, therefore, be equivalent to the banishment of these articles from the manufactures and commerce of the country. And what mind can conceive or what pen portray the consequences to the business, and comfort, and happiness of the civilized world? It would involve the destruction of countless millions of dollars of capital in the South vested in lands, and in slaves and stock and machinery necessary to cultivate them; and in the North in the factories erected to work up the products of Southern labor and to produce all the fabrics necessary to the prostration of domestic trade, manufactures, and the mechanic arts; the stagnation of foreign commerce; the derangement of the balance of trade and rates of exchange; disastrous convulsions in the monetary system; the serious injury of our shipping interests; a decline in our national resources; the paralysis of industry in all its departments; a general depression in the value of property, and a scene of bankruptcy and ruin to which the history of our country affords no parallel! Such would be some of the more prominent and direct results of that system of emancipation which deluded enthusiasts and selfish agitators would seek to accomplish. But the picture is by no means complete. It is plain that the evils I have enumerated would fall with more crushing force on the interests and people of the North than those of the South. But there are others peculiarly affecting the free States which should not be passed over in silence. Report of the Secretary of the Navy. Hon. Isaac Toucey, Secretary of the Navy, makes an interesting report, but many of the facts, touching the movements of our ships of war, during the year, have been anticipated. The "suppression of the African slave trade" is an interesting portion of the document. The steady increase of light draught, the use of the African slave coast will enter harbors and rivers where the slave traffic originates, while those on the coast of Cuba will frequent its harbors, cruise in the track of the slave traders on both sides of the island, and will be very sure to intercept such as may escape the vigilance of the former. Eight steamers have been detailed to suppress this trade, four to cruise on the coast of Guinea, and an equal number on the coast of Cuba, two on each side of the island. The constant presence of a squadron of steam vessels on the coast of Africa, and a similar provision on the coast of Cuba, will render the slave trade so dangerous for American vessels that few will be willing to embark in it. What the effect of breaking up the trade will be upon the United States or Cuba it is not necessary to inquire; certainly the laws of Congress and our treaty obligations, it is the duty of the executive government to see that our citizens shall not be engaged in it and that our flag shall not be used for its purposes. The increase of the Navy is very favorably spoken of, and each new or repaired steamer or other vessel of war is mentioned in detail. The Secretary says: "Although our naval force has been thus increased by the arrival of twenty steam vessels, yet I beg most respectfully to renew the recommendation which I had the honor to make a year ago of a still further increase of the navy. The cost of these twenty steam vessels has been less than five millions of dollars, while the sum retained in the treasury by the policy adopted at the last session of Congress of suspending improvements in the navy vessels and restricting the appropriation for equipment and repair, has amounted, during the present fiscal year, to more than three millions of dollars; and if Congress shall continue the policy of suspending these improvements during the next fiscal year, according to the estimates now submitted, there will be retained in the treasury a million and a half or two millions more."

Iredell Express.

EUGENE B. DRAKE & SON,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.
STATESVILLE,
FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1860.

Our Terms. THE "IREDELL EXPRESS" is published weekly, for which there will be no variation. Subscribers therefore will govern themselves accordingly. Terms one year, if paid in advance, \$10 00. If paid within 3 months, 12 00. If not paid till the end of the subscription year, 15 00.

Having laid in a large supply of Newspaper, Flat Cap, Fancy paper of various sizes, Cards, colored Inks and other materials for executing the finest style of printing, the Express Office is fully prepared to turn out work of any description in the best style of the art, and for moderate cost.

The Democracy of Iredell County

Will hold a meeting in the town of Statesville, on Tuesday of the County Court in February next, for the purpose of appointing delegates to the district Convention to be held in Winston. Also, for the purpose of appointing delegates to the State Convention at Raleigh on the 8th of March next. The Democracy of the County are respectfully invited to attend at the time and place appointed.

MANY DEMOCRATS,
January 14th, 1860

Hon. A. H. H. Stuart's Address

We think the public will be pleased with the information afforded in an extract which we publish this week from an agricultural address delivered by Hon. A. H. H. Stuart, of Virginia, which gives a very concise history of negro slavery since its first introduction into this country, and the method adopted by the New England States to get rid of the institution, when it was ascertained to be not profitable, there, without loss. The information is peculiarly opportune at this time, and, doubtless, will be new to many.

The snow and the spell of rainy weather that followed last week, that was so disagreeable to all sensitive persons, has, effectually resuscitated the wheat which was looking bad from injuries previously received from various causes. Sunday was a clear, mild day and Monday nearly so, but the signs are again winterish.

Our citizens took advantage of the late freezing snap to save abundance of ice, which had a thickness of about three inches.

Shall the only Tie that binds be Broken?

The only ligament which now unites the North and the South, preventing open sanguinary hostilities, is the mercantile intercourse that subsists between the two sections. It is proverbial evidence that, were the South to withhold her intercourse, all friendship between the two sections would be entirely destroyed, and open war would ensue. The North has declared openly and unmistakably its hostility to a cherished Southern institution, and the South has emphatically avowed her intention to have no more dealings with the North if the crusade against slavery is not abandoned by the latter.

Now, it is not our opinion, that either section will recede from the position that has been assumed by it—especially the North. In that event, will the South, fill the words of patriotism which have been uttered in her behalf and seek strength in her own right arm of independence and protection from foreign vassalage, by building up and fostering manufactures of her own; and prepare to meet the worst crisis if, the Union shall be ever dissolved.

The South has done something already in the way of domestic manufactures, but a vast deal remains yet to be accomplished, before she can supply even a title of her wants, and many years, with active enterprise, would be required to introduce a general system of manufacturing in our midst. Meanwhile, supplies must be obtained from some quarter, either from the North or foreign countries for the use and consumption of Southern people, or else great self-denial must be observed.

German to this subject we submit the following from the Oxford, N. C., L. Hour: "Movements are on foot to cut off all intercourse between the North and South, which if successful, will sever the only ties which bind the two sections together. The North, as is shown by her overwhelming majority of Black Republicans in Congress, is unwilling for the South to have her just political rights under the Constitution; and as a retaliatory measure, a system of non-intercourse is being advocated in several southern States. We have been long dependant upon the North for so many of the necessary articles of life that it will be next to impossible, for some time at least, for the people of the South to free themselves from the commercial shackles which their own intolerance has fo-

ed upon them. They will be compelled to purchase some articles, which cannot be obtained south of Mason's and Dixon's line. We should, however, deal only with those whom we know are not our enemies. There are many merchants in the cities of New York and Philadelphia, who are southerners by birth and education, whom we should not cause to suffer with the guilty. They should not be associated with the enemies of the South, for that would manifestly be unjust. Let our merchants, before they make their purchases in the Northern cities, find out the sentiments of those with whom they deal, and let them in no instance patronize any who have enlisted in the cause of abolitionism."

Whig Meeting in Yadkin

On short notice there was quite a spirited and well attended meeting of the Whigs of Yadkin county, on the 31st inst. being Tuesday of County Court, for the purpose of appointing delegates to the State Convention, to be held in the city of Raleigh on the 22nd of February next, to nominate a candidate for Governor.

On motion of R. F. Amfield, Josiah Cowles, Esq., was called to the chair, and W. H. A. Speer appointed secretary. The object of the meeting was ably explained by the chairman. It was then resolved, That we believe and regard the true principle of a Revenue law to equalize taxation, or to tax every citizen according to what he is worth, and the protection his property receives.

Resolved, That the chairman of this meeting appoint four delegates from each district in the county, to represent this county in the Whig State Convention, to be held in the city of Raleigh on the 22d of February next.

In pursuance of the same, the chairman appointed the following delegates, to wit:

Huntsville District—M. M. Cowles, W. L. Martin, Wm. White, A. C. Cowles.

Huntsville District—N. L. Williams, Hon. R. C. Dyer, Wm. Harlan and W. W. Long.

Rockwell District—Daniel Reese, Joel Rock, Wm. Condit and Jesse Revis.

Ballantyne District—T. Glenn, J. Jarratt, A. Pindexter and J. S. Speer.

East Rock District—W. W. Patterson, Dr. J. H. Peyton, A. Horn and R. P. Pindexter.

Deep Creek District—J. W. Williams, J. R. Hodge, L. G. Galt and W. J. Jester.

Beaufort District—Daniel Reese, Samuel Johnson, S. J. Jennings and S. T. Speer.

Jacksboro District—W. H. A. Speer, A. M. Bryan, T. D. Hampton and C. C. Bootham.

Rockwell District—S. Grant, Willie Pettis, James Wells and J. D. Johnson.

Jacksboro District—Dr. C. Cook, W. A. Joyce, R. F. Amfield and T. L. Talbert.

Kanawha District—Raleigh Halcomb, M. A. Strickland, S. Arnold and H. E. May.

On motion the Salem Press, Greensboro' Patriot, Iredell Express and Raleigh Register were requested to publish the proceedings of the meeting.

On motion, the meeting adjourned sine die.

JOSIAH COWLES, Ch'm'n.
W. H. A. SPEER, Sec'y.

BY MEMORIAL.

MAINTAINED.

On the 19th inst., at the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. J. M. Kennet, Wm. A. Walker to Miss M. A. Sharp.

On the 5th inst., by L. V. Campbell, Esq., Mr. Elwood Coffin to Miss Margaret Dobson.

On the 12th inst., by Rev. Quintin Holton, Philip W. Harmon to Miss Sarah Jane Stuck, alias Iredell.

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Salisbury, N. C., Jan 20, 1860 73m

Sale of Valuable Lands

IN
IREDELL COUNTY.

WILL be sold at the Court House door in Statesville, at Public Auction, on the Tuesday of Iredell County Court, being the 21st day of February next, two tracts of land belonging to the estate of the late Joel H. Jenkins, and sold by directions in his will. One tract known as the John Pott's land, joining the lands of John McHenry and others, and contains about 310 Acres. The other tract is known as the Robert McNeely place, and joins John Moore, Isaac A. Witherspoon and others, contains about 200 acres, and of twelve months will be given with interest after six months.

B. B. ROBERTS,
D. A. DAVIS,
Executors of J. H. Jenkins.
Jan 20, 1860 73m