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### THE JOURNAL.

H. S. HUNN, Editor.  
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### SENATOR VANCE BEFORE A BOSTON AUDIENCE.

On Wednesday evening last Senator VANCE delivered a lecture at Tremont Temple, Boston, for the benefit of J. A. Andrew Post, G. A. R., on "Political Feeling and Sentiment During the Civil War."

The Senator was the right man and in the right place to direct a blow at the attempt to write the history of the war erroneously by characterizing the Southerners as rebels and traitors. It will take a long time to correct the false teaching that has been spread abroad in the land on this subject, but men like Senator VANCE, if they seize every opportunity to correct it, will have a powerful influence in giving the truth to future generations and vindicating the Southern people from the slanders of sectional and partisan historians.

We copy the following short account of the Senator's speech from the Baltimore Sun because the sentiments therein uttered are true and acceptable to all who love the truth of history:

"The Senator's remarks were devoted to the attempt on the part of the North to forestall history in regard to the civil war, and to impress upon all who took part in it on the Southern side the stigma of treason, to which he said that 'all crime is to be found in criminal intent, and no Southern man believed he was engaged in rebellion or treason; that secession was constitutional and right; that the Southern people had been so taught by Northern and Southern statesmen; that the universal understanding when the constitution was adopted was that when a State deemed herself injured by its restrictions she had the right to withdraw. The foundation for this decision,' he said, 'was Madison's resolution of 1798. Massachusetts accepted this doctrine, and asserted her right and threatened to execute it in 1803 when Louisiana was annexed. She again asserted this right in the Hartford Convention several years later. The resolution of 1798 became the political platform of the Democratic party, and was enunciated again and again by national conventions, and candidates of that party professing these principles had carried a majority of the American people. Thus feeling and being reared to believe that doctrine accepted, no Southern man could be legally convicted of crime for thus attempting to carry it out. No court has ever decided that secession was treason, and therefore there could have been no criminal intention as there was no criminal knowledge. It is therefore unfair and untruthful to continue to speak of secession as treason. The question never was decided until it was decided by the war."

"They do us injustice," continued Senator Vance, "when they say that slavery was the cause of the war; in truth, it was only an occasion of the war. The real cause of the war was the attempt of the federal government to control the internal affairs of the States. Had we submitted to the interference of the general government in regard to slavery, we would have been precluded from resisting that interference in regard to anything else whatever which would have made an absolute end of the sovereignty of each State over its own affairs." He then went on to state that for the sin of slavery it is the responsibility must be divided between the North and South, Rhode Island and Massa-

chusetts ships (slavery) went to Africa, bought slaves for New England run; the South also bought them. When the Northern States found the climate unsuited to slaves, they sold them to the Southern States, quit the business and turned philanthropists. Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut joined extreme Southern States, the two Carolinas and Georgia, when the constitution was formed and postponed for twenty years the suppression of the slave trade, so that on both subjects, secession and slavery, New England is not in a condition to throw stones at anybody else.

He then proceeded to speak of how secession was accomplished; how it was received by the common people; how the civil authorities were supported; by popular opinion throughout the first year or so of the war; the necessity for conscription acts and their effect on the popular opinion in the South; the social condition of the South during the war, when shut off by blockade from all the world; what people did and said and thought and felt, and especially what they did in the way of improving their manufactures of war material, food and clothing, and all implements used in the industries of daily life. Public feeling in the Confederate cause only began to wane when losses in our army could no longer be supplied, and a great mass of the people thought of treating for peace. He explained the difficulties of negotiations which were in the way. Both State and Confederate authorities were bound by a constitution and a government of Confederate States. "In my opinion," he said, "it was a great mistake to have formed any constitution, for the Confederacy was restrained by its own constitution. In view of the great odds against the Confederacy, they should have stripped themselves naked of all laws or constitutions and bowed to one will."

Speaking of the negro question in connection with the war, the Senator said: "The North predicted that the slaves would be incited to commit murder, incendiarism, and bring on all the horrors of servile war. They found it quite the contrary. The negro was a positive element of strength to the South. By reason of his service in the field we were enabled to put in our army far more white men than we could have done but for the presence of the negro. Instead of insurrection and outrage, the negro not only refrained from any act of vengeance when an opportunity came, but in a large measure failed to embrace the opportunity of freedom itself when the Federal armies came. Few followed the army off, and still fewer ran away to get to the armies. They stayed quietly on the old plantation, cultivating the fields, and caring for the women and children with a kindness and loyalty that gives the lie direct to charges of cruelty and ill-treatment to which they were said to be subjected."

In conclusion the Senator said: "I now assert, though my hair has since become white, that I would fight eight years against any attempt to renege secession in my country. I do not believe there is one man in one hundred in all the South whose sentiments are not the same. I am sure there is not in the land of my nativity and my unchanging love—North Carolina."

Thirteen at Dinner.  
On Saturday night the President accepted Commissioner Webb's invitation to go to dinner. Shortly before the appointed time, Mr. Webb received a note from Chief Justice Carter, regretting that indisposition prevented his appearing to meet the President. This threw Commissioner Webb into rather an awkward position, because he had invited but twelve gentlemen to meet the President there with the guests, and that would make fourteen. This break would cause the superstitious number of thirteen to be reached. It was too late to make other arrangements, and so the table was set for the original number. The guests came and dinner was announced. As they were about to sit down, the President discovered that there were thirteen and Mr. Webb noticed it and after a few words of explanation, sent for his son, Mr. Henry Randall Webb, and so the dinner went on. Strange as it may seem, at nearly the same time, but in New York, another dinner was given to a distinguished man. It was Mr. Elkins' dinner to Mr. Blaine. A guest regretted at the last moment, and only thirteen gathered around the festive board. Some one noticed it, but Mr. Blaine laughed at the superstition and wanted to sit down, but Mr. Elkins sent for his son, and the party, too, sat down as fourteen. It is remarkable that the two Presidential candidates of 1861 should have to decide whether superstition or not, on the same night, just exactly two years after one won and the other was beaten.—Baltimore American.

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