

The House, being in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union...

Mr. Chairman: Gentlemen have discussed with ability and eloquence the political and commercial necessity of the acquisition of the island of Cuba...

It is a disposition to set up caprice or passion or prejudice or interest each under the guise of a "higher law," called conscience, or even the voice of God...

Yet this doctrine, thus pregnant of evil, has found its way into our minds, and is now being spread all over the land. Its footprints are visible in the refusal of large portions of the Northern people to enforce the plain provisions of the constitution...

Mark the track of the higher law upon the plains of "bleeding Kansas." Emigrant and soldiers, with powder and ball, and Sharp's rifles, are an odd sight, at the repetition of which my taste revolts...

The same disposition to loosen the law of conscience above the law of the land is more strikingly exhibited, perhaps, in the progress of that singular Mormon superstition which, driven from the earlier settlements in Illinois by the advancing tread of a better civilization...

It pains me, therefore, Mr. Chairman, to be constrained, by truth, to say that this "higher law" doctrine has at last found advocates in her midst...

of the South, and reinstatement of wrong; yet, sir, I believe the policy to be as reckless as it really has been derogatory to southern honor, and disastrous to southern territory...

Let it be remembered that the federal executive exhausts all his powers when, in good faith and with vigor, it assumes its prosecutive...

In regard to those for the suppression of the African slave trade, I deprecate all agitation of the question for many reasons which time will not permit me now to detail...

First, to awaken the attention of the sober and thinking men of the country, that all such men may unite to resist the wrong...

My second purpose is to put this administration upon trial; and appeal to the great jury of their countrymen to say whether they have discharged faithfully the great duty enjoyed by the constitution...

Remember, when a candidate for the seat I now occupy, that I repeat, and the people, are as far as I am concerned—then the theme of agitation and acrimonious debate—this administration, would see to it that the organic law of that Territory was faithfully executed...

The organic law of the Territory of Utah—was not enacted upon this administration by inheritance; not by any act of theirs, or omission on their part to act...

despotic the gentleman really believe that it would invade any of the rights of the South?

Mr. JACKSON. I honestly and seriously do believe that that result would be disastrous to the confederacy, and would break up the Union of those States, whether the gentleman desired it or not.

Mr. STANTON. Suppose that the republican party of to-day should adopt, before the principles and platform of the whig party, and in consequence of the changes in public sentiment for the ten years...

Mr. JACKSON. I do not intend that the republican party shall be bound by the opinions of any man...

Mr. STANTON. I have no doubt the gentleman thinks it very desirable that a party should be organized in the free States upon the principles set forth by the gentleman from Kentucky...

Mr. JACKSON. I wish, sir, to repudiate just now to hear the gentleman, as I thought, repudiate the position of the distinguished gentleman from New York...

But I greatly fear, sir, that the conservative element in the republican ranks will be too weak to contend for the restoration of that "higher-law" principle...

with every Garland of his past progress and glory. The Mississippi, so long as it pours its flood of waters to the Gulf, shall mingle with the hum of its immense commerce the name of Jefferson, the father of democracy.

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SENATE.

The following memorials and petitions were presented and appropriately referred: By Mr. BIGLER: Thirteen memorials, all very numerously signed, from Philadelphia and various other parts of Pennsylvania...

By Mr. CLAY, from the Committee on Commerce, to which was referred the memorial of ship-owners and others interested in the commerce of the lakes, a king the erection of a light-house on Drummond Island...

By Mr. HUNTER, from the Committee on Finance, to which was referred House bill making appropriation for the service of the Post Office Department, reported it back with amendments...

By Mr. MASON, from the Committee on Finance, to which was referred House bill making appropriation for the consular and diplomatic expenses of government, drafted by the House of Representatives...

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