THE ST. CLOUD DEMOCRAT

JAMES G. SWISSHELM, "Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward."—EXODUS, CHAP. XIV VERSE 15. EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Extracts from a Speech of Hon. Wm. Windom on the Confiscation Bill.

Mr. Speaker, by a special order of the House two bills are under discussion: one proposing to confiscate the property of rebels; the other to liberate their slaves. The remarks which I desire now to submit will be addressed mainly to the policy of these measures

Sir, there was a time when treason was regarded as the blackest crime known among men, and traitors were outcaste, bearing upon their foreheads the brand of infamy. Now, treason seems to be viewed by many as a sort of political principle, and traitors as a mere political party, to be treated with respect and toleration. Even in the free States there are in almost every community men whose hearts are black with the treason their pale lips dare not utter, whose every sympathy is with the enemies of their country, and who secretly rejoice whenever they hear of the slaughter of our brave men in battle. The prayers of sorrowing mothers and wives, and the hearty "God bless you" of a loyal people, which follow our gallant soldiers to the field, find in their leprous souls no response, but the secret wish that they may meet disgrace, defeat, and butchery. For this class of beings—whom it were foul slander on humanity to call men—I can find no words to express my deep detestation and utter abhorrence. Traitors are they, without the courage to avow their treason: assassins, without an opportunity to strike the cowardly blow their vile hearts prompt. Their sentiments and sympathies are well known in the communities where they reside, and yet they are permitted to contaminate respectable society with their presence; to mingle with honorable and loyal men; and even to excuse and cover up the crimes of their murderous allies.

Until the Government and the people come to regard this most wicked crime in its true light, and to treat such criminals in accordance with their deserts, we may not hope for peace or security. If loyalty and disloyalty, patriotism and treason, are to be understood as mere matters of opinion, about which men may honestly differ as upon ordinary political subjects, we may as well at once consign the Republic to its grave.

Sir, I have no patience with those persons who are ever ready to plead for the rights of traitors and murderers but who never utter a word in condemnation of their crimes. Atrocities are daily committed by the rebels which would disgrace a cannibal, and yet whenever an effort is made to visit upon them a tithe of the punishment due to their fiendish outrages these friends and sympathizers spring to the rescue, and interpose the shield of the Constitution between them and a just retribution.

I will yield to no one in reverence for that glorious charter of liberty, but in my humble opinion, the leaders in this rebellion have "no rights which a white man is bound to respect," except, as was well said by another, "the right to be hung." They can claim nothing but an ignominious death for the benefit of the present, and a record of their infamy and just fate for a warning to future generations

The Constitution which I reverence was made "to form a more perfect Union," not to weaken that which has been formed; "to establish justice," not to shield the guilty; "to insure domestic tranquility," not to give license to revolt; "to provide for the common defense," not to encourage treason and guard the lives and property of traitors; "to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity," not to sacrifice every sacred interest, including liberty itself, upon the accursed altars of slavery A nation like an individual has the right to defend its existence by every means at command even to the utter annihilation of its enemies. When I see a traitorous blow aimed at the life of my country, shall I sit down and tamely study the Constitution to find whether I shall merely ward of the blow, or strike the traitor dead? No! I will strike for the salvation of my country first, and study the law afterwards

I have heard and carefully read the exhaustive constitutional arguments made on the subject of confiscation in this and the other wing of the Capitol, and will not take the time to reproduce them, or attempt to add to their force. To my mind, they very summarily demolish the weak contitutional breastwork thrown up for the protection of traitors, and most clearly demonstrate the power and duty of Congress to charge upon them with the weapons of confiscation and emancipation at the same time that our brave soldiers are charging with cold steel.

There are, no doubt, degrees of guilt in those who are engaged in this revolt, and the law should discriminate in its punishment. For the ignorant, misguided masses at the South, who have been forced into revolt by wicked leaders, let there be forgiveness, as far as may be consistent with public safety; but in the name of humanity and justice, let the mercy of the Government exhaust itself on them, that there may be none left either for the cause which has inspired or the leaders who have inflicted the rebellion. Justice demands for them the most severe and terrible punishments. Mercy shudders at their crimes, and for the sake of future order and peace, delivers them up for example and a warning. No policy can be more dangerous and cruel than that which by a morbid sympathy for traitors, teaches that treason is a venial offense, to be readily forgiven and speedily forgotten. Those who have instigated this rebellion must be made to feel that the Government respects itself, and that they cannot devastate a continent with impunity. All men must be taught by their fate that death and infamy follow close upon the heels of treason. This punishment should not be inflicted to gratify any feelings of resentment or revenge, but in the discharge of a solemn duty we owe to posterity. Not to visit these chief criminals with the severest penalties of the law, is to bequeath to our children another rebellion, more terrible and bloody than the present. If it was Jackson's dying regret that he did not hang Calhoun, what bitter remorse must rend the soul of Lincoln if he fail to do his duty to the traitors of our day.

I regard the confiscation of the property of rebels as the most effective means of crippling their resources, and putting an end to the war, and hence demanded by every principle of humanity. It will be an encouragment to loyal men to declare their loyality when they see that the Government proposes to punish its enemies instead of its friends A discriminating act of confiscation, such as reported by the special committee, will create dissensions among the rebels themselves, and greatly aid in bringing the leaders to justice, or in exiling them from the country. It will be a standing admonition to all future conspirators, that the righteous indignation of an insulted people is not to be recklessly invoked, and that he who does so must stake his all on the issue. It will serve in some slight degree to indemnify the loyal tax paying people of the country for the immense sacrifices they are compelled to make for its preservation.

Reason on this question as we may, we will find it very difficult to convince the people of the loyal States that they must be stripped of their property to pay expences of a war for which they are in no way responsible, while the arch conspirators who have forced it upon them escape its burdens. They belive that every dollar's worth of property, real, personal, and mixed, owned by these men, should be at once forfeited to the use of the Government, and applied, as far as it will go, to lighten the burden of taxation thus wickedly and wantonly thrust upon the country. It is but just that the criminal should be made to pay the expense incurred for his punishment. Shall these greatest criminals the world ever saw be made an exception? Breckinridge, Toombs, Slidell and many others of the same class in the South, own large tracts of land in my own State. Do you think the people there will contentedly bear the burdens we impose on them when they see this property untouched by by the Government? When I return to my constituents, and they ask me why these lands were not confiscated, will they be quite satisfied with the answer, "I was afraid it would irritate and offend Messrs Breckinridge, Toombs & Co, and therefore I rolled the whole burden on you."

* * * * *

Four millions of people, who are loyal at heart and would gladly have built our fortifications, saved our soldiers many a weary day's labor, and rendered as the most efficient aid, have been told by our actions, if not by our words, "you must stay with your rebel masters and support them, while they madly strive to overthrow the Government." Our tenderness has been for our enemies; our severity for our friends. Citizens of slave States who wanted to be loyal have been compelled to avow themselves traitors in order to save their lives and property, because traitors were quite as sure of protection from the Government as loyal men, whereas to avow their adherence to the Union was to expose themselves to the loss of life and property from the enemy

Thus we have weakened ourselves and strengthened our foes; discouraged loyalty and paid a premium to treason. All these and a thousand similar acts have been performed in the name of forbearance and clemency What has been the effect on those whom we have thus sought to conciliate? Let their conduct answer. Their savage fury seems to be just in proportion to our leniency. Waging a war against a Government which has done them no wrong, which they have felt only in its blessings, and which, during a whole year of bloody strife has exhibited all the forbearance that a weak, fond parent would extend to an erring child, they have evinced a determination to show to the world the utter baseness of ingratitude and the fiendishness of hate. Witness scores of civilians and innocent women and children crushed and mangled at the Gasconade bridge, in Missouri! The bay, netting of wounded soldiers on the battle field, as they lay helpless and begging for mercy! The employment of the scalping knife of the red savage, but little more merciless than the white savages who employed them! The neglect and brutal murder of prisoners who have fallen into their hands! The treacherous and cold blooded massacre of unarmed soldiers at Gusandotte! The cruel expatriation and inhuman butchery of thousands of the citizens of East Tennessee for their loyalty to the Union! The late accept of mingled ferocity and cowardice at New Orleans, referred to by Commander Farragut, when the retiring rebels shot down in the streets "helpless women and children for giving expression to their pleasure at witnessing the old flag!"

These are only a few of the ten thousand equally inhuman acts which have marked this war on the part of the rebels. Surely this tale of barbarity would be sufficiently shocking if confined to the living, but their ghoul like desecration of the honored dead, as disclosed by the joint committee on the conduct of the war, is even more revolting and makes one doubt whether the perpetrators of such acts are brutes or demons. I beg the indulgence of the House while I read a few extracts from that report. After referring to the treatment of our sick and wounded on the field and in the hospitals, the committee say:

"Revolting as these disclosures are, it was when the committee came to examine witnesses in reference to the treatment of our heroic dead that the fiendish spirit of the rebel leaders was most prominently exhibited. Daniel Bixby, jr., of Washington testifies that he went out in company with G. A. Smart, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who went to search for the body of his brother, who fell at Blackburn's Ford in action of the 18th of July.—They found the grave. The clothes were identified as those of his brother on account of some peculiarity in the make, for they had been made by his mother; and, in order to identify them, other clothes made by her were taken, that they might compare them.

"'We found no head in the grave, and no bones of any kind—nothing but the clothes and portions of the flesh We found the remains of three other bodies all together. The clothes were there; some flesh was left, but no bones.' The witness also states that Mrs. Pierce Butler, who lives near the place, said that she had seen the rebels *boiling portions of the bodies of our dead in order to obtain their bones as relics.* They could not wait for them to decay. She said that she had seen drumsticks made of 'Yankee shinbones,' as they called them. Mrs. Butler also stated that she had seen a skull that one of the New Orleans artillery had, which, he said, he was going to send home and have mounted, and that he intended to drink a brandy punch out of it the day he was married." * * *

"'While digging there, a party of soldiers came along and showed us a part of a shinbone, five or six inches long, which had the end sawed off. They said they had found it, among many other pieces, in one of the cabins the rebels had deserted. *From the appearance of it, pieces has been sawed off to make finger-rings.* As soon as the negroes noticed this, they said that the rebels had rings made of the bones of our dead, and that they had them for sale in their camps. When Dr. Swalm saw the bone, he said it was a part of the shinbone of a man. The soldiers represented that there were lots of these bones scattered through the rebel huts sawed into rings.'" * * *

"The outrages upon the dead will revive the recollections of the cruelties to which savage tribes subject their prisoners. They were buried in many cases naked, with their faces downward. They were left to decay in the open air, their bones carried off as trophies, sometimes, as the testimony proves, to be used as personal adornments, and one witness deliberately avers that the head of one of our most gallant officers was cut off by a secessionist, to be turned into a drinking cup on the occasion of his marriage. Monstrous as this revelation may appear to be, your committe have been informed that during the last two weeks the skull of a Union soldier has been exhibited in the office of the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives, which had been converted to such a purpose, and which had been found on the person of one of the rebel prisoners taken in a recent conflict The testimony of Governor Sprague, of Rhode Island, is most interesting. It confirms the worst reports against the rebel soldiers, and conclusively proves that the body of one the bravest officers in the volunteer service was burned. He does not hesitate to add that this hyena desecration of the honored corpse was because the rebels believed it to be the body of Colonel Slocum, against whom they were infuriated for having displayed so much courage and chivalry in forcing his regiment fearlessly and bravely upon them. These disclosures, establishing, as they incontestably do, the consistent inhumanity of the rebel leaders, will be read with sorrow and indignation by the people of the loyal States. They should inspire these people to renewed exertions to protect our country from the restoration to power of such men. They should, and we believe they will, arouse the disgust and honor of foreign nations against this unholy rebellion."

I have myself seen a letter written by a female in Alabama to her brother in the rebel army at Manassas, in which she thanks him for having written to her "*with the blood of a Yankee*"

In a speech lately delivered in New York, Parson Brownlow, the hero of East Tennessee, gave additional testimony on this revolting subject in these words:

"Why, gentlemen, after the battle of Manassas they passed through our town on furlough, officers and privates, going down into Dixie, exaulting, and brought with them divers what they called Yankee heads—the entire heads of Union Troops—some of them with long beard and they would take them by the hair and shake they out of the window, and say, 'A damned Yankee's head!' This is the spirit of the vile, untored savages of hell, and he who apologizes for them is no better than he who is perpetrator of the crime."

These, sir, are the beings in whose behalf our clemency in invoked? These are the "chivalrous southern hearts" you would win back by kindness! These are the creatures over whose success northern sympathizers rejoice! The blood curdles in our veins, and we turn away with sickening disgust from the contemplation of their horrid crimes to inquire what gigantic inquity it is that breeds such moral monsters. The answer is obvious.

It is slavery that vitiated the conscience, destroyed the morals, brutalized the soul, and, in its own foul fens, generated these monsters of wickedness, whose mad attempts to destroy the Republic is characterized by the frightful excesses to which I have refered. All the want, misery, strife, treachery, bloodshed, barbarity, and desolation which now stalks through this once happy country, have their origin in the fell system of human bondage, which it has nourished and protected. I announce no new doctrine borne of modern fanaticism. I out accept present troubles and perils as the ripe fruits of slavery and as the fulfillment of predictions uttered long ago by the sages of the Revolution.

The Chicago *Times*, the Democratic organ, is greatly exercised over the passage of the Homestead Bill. The *Times* is one of the many Democratic papers which are in full sympathy with the Southern traitors, and has been so long under pro-slavery influence that it is now compelled to advocate the same principles as when treason was in full force at our national capital. With the exeption of Gov. Johnston and a very few others, the Homestead Bill has always met with a bitter opposition from Southern Senators and Representatives. The following is an extract from the *Times:*

We have always doubted the wisdom of the principle of free lands. It is the nature of men to prize lightly that which cost them nothing, and we think it is the experience of those States that have adopted the plan of giving away their land that it has retarded rather than advanced healthful settlement of such lands."

A correspondent of the Stillwater *Messenger* writing from near Yorktown gives the following item:

Deserters and contrabrands come in daily, the latter generally are the most intelligent of the two Many are the stories they tell, many a page might be filled with them. One who came in yesterday told the following: "Massa tells us de Yankees catch us sure as shooting, if dey can, an' sen' us to Cuba, an' sell us for sugar an' tobaco. But he don't fool dis chile, I know him. I'm done clean gone. Reckon you'll get a right smart of baco in Richmond when you get dar. Lor's dey be fraider dan de debbil ob you fellers, our folks is; dey is all ready to run now right smart, 'deed dey is." But I have not time to dwell now; these contrabrands are a "peculiar institution" in the army, and give us much valuable information—They know every foot of the country for miles around, and are invaluable as guides

☞ The Chicago *Times* calls Secretary Stanton "a viper." That's because he stings the secesh locofocos.

Gen. Hunter's Proclamation.

We are glad to see that the question of Gen. Hunter's right to manumit the slaves of his district, is about to be tested. The Cincinnati correspondent of the New York *Tribune* says:

But I have just learned that the liberty of these slaves will be tested in the courts of the country by a very interesting case. Some years ago a South Carolinian, Elijah Willis by name, resident in Barnwell, S. C., determined to manumit a slave woman, by whom he had three children. These four chattels he brought to Cincinnati to place in the hands of Mr. J. Jolliffe, a prominent Anti-Slavery lawyer of this city. When Willis reached this city, and just as the four slaves were landing, he was stricken with apoplexy and fell dead at the wharf The case of the four slaves was tried in the Courts of South Carolina, and they decided that they were free—Mr. Willis's will had left his assets in the hands of Mr. Jolliffe.

Now, among these assets are 40 slaves, which came into the hands of Mr. Jolliffe, who, however, has vainly endeavored to get them out of South Carolina. Once he went down to Barnwell, but was willing to return with his life, *minus* the slaves. The slaves were appraised down there at $20,000. Mr. Jolliffe now claims that Gen. Hunter's Proclamation has taken the slaves of this estate, and that the Government owes the $20,000. He intends to petition Congress, and to test through every form the question of Hunter's authority. He says if his 40 slaves are free all in the three States are free: this he will follow up. Those who know Mr. Jolliffe are persuaded that he will gladly take, instead of the $20,000, in endorsement by the Government of the freedom of the slaves throughout the Department of the South.

All old Anti-Slavery workers are familiar with Mr. Jolliffe and will feel assured that he will give the case a thorough airing; but it will be the business of every lover of justice to see that 926,496 people are not reduced to slavery by a stroke of Mr. Lincoln's pen.

The Washington *Republican* says:

We hold it to be a matter of the clearest and plainest law, that Generals in the field, subject always to the orders of the Commander-in-Chief, *can do any act which he could do, if he took the field in person and that they have the same right to liberate slaves, under the war power, which he possesses.*

The difference is, that whereas he can control them, there is no higher authority which can control him. But in the absence of such controlling orders from him, *Generals can do anything which he could do; and where the thing done is of a nature to vest rights in third parties he cannot undo it.*

Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia.

From the London Times.

Neither Englishmen nor Frenchmen have been forward to recognize the fact that the 16th of April, 1862, was a day which will stand in American history as the greatest day since that of the signing of the Declaration of Independence—the day of this century which will be honored through all time, whatever may be the destiny in store for the Republic. When the traditions of sea and land victories are becoming dim, when the grass has grown high on the graves of fallen heroes, that day will stand highest in the scale of national festivals, and the reformers of the second revolution will seem to form, in the vista of the past, one group with the patriots of the first On that day the people of the United States ceased to be a slave-holding nation. 'Till then there has been a gulf fixed between them and all those Christian nations which had outgrown the barbarism of holding men as slaves; and now the nation has come over to the side on which we stand. It is now entitled to act and speak as a free nation should. It is now qualified to act with us, without misgiving and without hypocrisy, against the slave trade. It is no longer a subject for the scepticism and scorn of the world, because of the contrast between its profession and its practice. After a struggle between the best and the worst elements of its society—a struggle prolonged through two generations—it has abolished slavery on the National territory: and the National Government has ceased to be a slave-holding power. Slavery has sunk to be a mere State institution; and, deprived of national sanction and support, and exposed as it now is, to the condemnation of the American Government, together with all other Governments, it cannot long sustain itself under the scorn and loathing of human society. As a national institution it could assume to defy foreign opinion. As a "domestic institution," reprobated at Washington as at London and Paris, its doom is plain, and its strength is broken

MOTTO FOR THE CONSERVATIVES.—"Eternal *slavery* is the price of liberty!"

State News.

IMMIGRATION.—Notwithstanding the hard times and the unsettled state of the country, there was a fair tide of immigration pouring into all parts of Minnesota.—With the close of the war and the operations of the homestead bill, immigration will be largely increased during the next few years.—*Stillwater Messenger.*

GROWING CROPS.—From all sections of our country we hear the most encouraging accounts of the growing crops of small grains. Wheat, particularly, looks most promising.

During the past week a large amount of corn was planted. Let that "one more acre" be sowed or planted. We will soon have a subjugated empire to feed.—*Ib.*

William Stanton of Lillian, Goodhue county, came to his death on the 15th inst. under very mysterious circumstances. He had been sick for some time and was under the care of a doctor from Northfield. When he died it was believed there had been foul play. A *post mortem* examination was held on the body, and corrosive sublimate was found in the stomach. The wife of the deceased and the doctor above alluded to are suspected, and are at Red Wing awaiting examination before the grand jury now in session.—*Hastings Conserver, 22d.*

The Hastings *Conserver*, of the 29th ult., says that on Tuesday morning at 2 o'clock the foundry and machine shop with the saw mill attached at that place were discovered to be on fire. All were destroyed. The original cost of the machine shop was about $36,000. It was, as we learn from the *Independent*, insured for $18,000. The cause of the fire is unknown, although it appears to have been the work of an incendiary.

The same paper states that on the 25th a German, named James Brawand, who had just returned from a hunting excursion, accidentally shot himself while taking his gun from a buggy, the weapon going off and lodging the entire charge in his abdomen.

Those who are skeptical in regard to fruit growing in this section, can have their doubts removed by examining the trees already planted. We have seen a number of apple and cherry trees in this village, covered with blossoms. Mrs. Morse, near Read's Landing has an orchard of nearly one hundred apple trees. They all stood the intense cold of last winter and now they are in full bloom. These facts are more satisfactory than all the stories for or against fruit growing in Minnesota.—*Wabashaw Herald.*

DOMESTIC TREASON.—The Chicago *Times*—secesh Democratic—says it would be "*infamous*" for England not to interfere in the war now raging in this country. It says:

It would be infamous in a British Ministry to let British manufactures starve, as it is in abolitionists to prolong the war and the sufferings of the whites by their wanton agitation of the imaginary benefit of the blacks. There are limits to the duties of all men, and especially to those of men in office. *Who takes care of himself best does his duty most faithfully to God and to society.*

Here, says the Grand Rapids (Mich.) *Eagle* in commenting on the above extract, is the plain declaration that, if England takes care of herself—no matter how much she wrongs the United States—no matter if she crushes forever constitutional liberty in the world—no matter if she could and should set her heel upon the neck of oppressed Ireland—if she looks selfishly to taking care of herself, at the expense of everybody else, she will thereby "*do her duty most faithfully to God!*" as well as to man. The London *Times* itself never ventured to utter so atrocious a sentiment. It is more treasonable to humanity, more treasonable to all that is just, and right, and honorable, and even decent, than any one sentence we ever read in all American journalism.

But this is the end to which pro-Slavery Democracy would bring us—asking England to interfere rather than slavery should be injured in the conflict. This is the policy of the leaders, but even the masses of their own party will not support them in it.

—Those who shudder at the *possible* ferocity of emancipated negroes, should be pointed to the *actual* ferocity of rebel whites. It is estimated that five thousand loyal men, guilty of no crime, have been hanged in the South since the rebellion broke out. The barbarities to wounded prisoners, and the mutilations of the dead are simply horrible. These are facts; the negro cruelties are imaginary. We are now dealing with *facts.*

Tell me, angelic hosts, ye messengers of love, shall swindled printers here below have no redress above?

The shining angel band replied: "To us is knowledge given, delinquents on the printers books shall never enter Heaven!"

Gen. Dix has required the Gem Saloon, Baltimore, to display the national flag from the building.

DEFECTIVE PAGE