THE MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL.

BY M'CLANAHAN, TROUSDALE & DILL. MEMPHIS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1860. VOLUME XI.—NUMBER 13.

Daily Appeal.

THE QUESTION OF THE DAY.

CONVENTIONS OF SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN DEMOCRACY—THE SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: There are occasions when every citizen should express his opinion on public affairs; such a sort has arisen, and is my apology for this letter.

The dangerous and illogical doctrines which, for a series of years, have been disseminated by a political and religious controlling as on the subject of slavery, have culminated in an open attempt to excite rebellion and insurrection in some the colored population of Virginia, and the whole southern section of our country is now in a state of excitement and alarm. And what has could be expected when we see ministers of the gospel of Christ, and that holy religion that breathes only of charity and good will to all men—preaching treason to the laws and Constitution, murder and arson, and the horrors of a servile war, against our brethren of the South; and this treason, instead of being rebuked, is received by the press, and by orators of a strong political party, that would aspire to rule the Union. With such things occurring before us ought we to be surprised at that all these States where the institution of slavery exists should be alarmed, and that they should prefer the open separation to what most appear to them a treacherous Union? Who could doubt the result of a civil war, if such should come under the feelings of each section? We know that the great mass of the people of the five States of the Union remain true to the Constitution, and to all their obligations under it, and that not less willingly would they render their support against a foreign invasion than foreign invasion—but the chivalric spirit of John Brown and his followers, instead of sympathy, is received here with much abhorrence as in Virginia itself; but it is difficult to convince our southern brethren that such is the prevailing sentiment of our people, when we suffer the societies of Tract and Abolitionists to go unrebuked, and sustain men in high places who, at least, ostensibly sympathize with them.

But why should we stop upon a crusade against the institutions of our sister States? They have done us no injury, but great good; they have infringed no law of nations, nor violated any existing treaty; upon the face of Congress have borne themselves strictly within the limits of the Constitution, which a party with an happily small majority, seeks to make the sole instrument, the common bond of our country, they, as well as we, are secured in the establishment and maintenance of our social institutions, and domestic peace and tranquility. Not only this, but we are bound in case of injury from a foreign power, to give them the aid of our national treasure and blood. Yet, notwithstanding the equality of the Union being guaranteed by all, it necessarily follows that complaints of injury, and even of fear of injury, or, whether in or out of the sister State, must be illegal, and subject to prevention and punishment. However decidedly I should be opposed to the extension of slavery in my own State, I feel that in this case we are the aggressors, and that all we have to do is to let the South. With them the question is not whether slavery be right or wrong in the abstract—that is a matter of no moment—the terrors of humanity is constantly from four and a quarter to four and a half millions of internal slaves, unaccustomed to and incapable of self government—consequently, miserable, miserable, it would inure to their benefit, as it certainly would to the destruction of the white population, and the desolation of the country. With them it is one of life and death and the dictates of self-preservation, and not a question for argument, but action; and I believe every right minded man in the Northern States, who holds his allegiance to the Constitution, and loves he Union as the source of all our unexampled prosperity as a nation, to look at it in the same light. It may be too late to arrest it, for these aggressions upon their tranquility and happiness, which have already alienated the minds and excited the passions of the slave States against us, must otherwise sooner or later, eventuate in a dissolution of our great and glorious confederacy.

Unfortunately, much ignorance prevails among us in relation to the institutions of the Southern States, and of slavery in particular. Many well intentioned people have drawn their ideas from the publications of abolitionists and the exaggerated representations of Mrs. Stowe, which is only equalled by its malignity and falsehood as a representation of manners and customs in the South. I have myself visited the South, and will offer some facts for your consideration.

No white man among us, however low his position in society, feels himself degraded by contact with the coloured race; his color, his physiology and his whole physical formation, characterize his social position, and our laws, both Statute and Common, give to children of a coloured mother all the rights of citizenship, except protection; in most respects he is no better than the slave, and in many he is worse. The negro is not degraded by his slavery, for it is a fact, I believe, that no race has ever existed in a form so mild and beneficent as that of the United States; nowhere have the rights of property been more sacred by wise and equal laws, nowhere his physical wants so abundantly supplied, nowhere his moral and intellectual improvement more cared for. The African race here is in a state which is little short of the white population of the country, be compared with it. It has been doubt that of England, and in the state of the continent of Europe. The contrast is the result that could not have taken place under a tyrannical and oppressive system of government, and to all their obligations under it, and that not less willingly would they render their support against a foreign invasion than foreign invasion—but the chivalric spirit of John Brown and his followers, instead of sympathy, is received here with much abhorrence as in Virginia itself; but it is difficult to convince our southern brethren that such is the prevailing sentiment of our people, when we suffer the societies of Tract and Abolitionists to go unrebuked, and sustain men in high places who, at least, ostensibly sympathize with them.

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