THE MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL.

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Daily Appeal.

SPEECH OF HON. ALBERT RUST, OF ARKANSAS.

On the Organization of the House—Delivered in the House of Representatives, December 28, 1859.

The Clerk. The question before the House is upon the admissibility of the resolution of the gentleman from North Carolina, (Mr. Winslow,) presented on Thursday last; and on that question the gentleman from Illinois, (Mr. Morris,) is entitled to the floor.

Mr Rust. I ask the gentleman to yield to me for a few moments.

Mr. Morris, of Illinois. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. Rust. Mr. Clerk, when, five years ago, I for the first time, became a candidate for a seat upon this floor, believing, as I did, that the discussion of the question of slavery, and every question connected with or growing out of it, could be attended with no possible good to one section or the other of this Union; believing that, so far as the South was concerned, the argument had been exhausted, and that her rights under the Constitution, with reference to it, were above and beyond debate; and feeling, sir, that the only position which, with honor, she could assume, was one of calm and dignified silence, with resolute and effective preparation to respond to any future and further aggression, not by words, but by appeal to argument, by remonstrance, but by action, and action of the most significant character, I voluntarily pledged my word to my constituents that I would not participate in any debate at all I was called in its character; but, owing to events which have recently transpired, and the relation of the different parties in this House, with reference to each other, and particularly the attitude which one member here occupies toward all the rest, I feel absolved from that pledge.

Within the last few weeks, almost in view of this Capitol, the most atrocious crime that ever was dared disgraced the history of our country, and brought discredit upon our form of government, have been perpetrated, and a number of members upon this floor, (in the absence of an explanation yet to be made,) stand convicted by the current history of the times before the country and before the world of complicity in them. Yes, sir, one of the most extraordinary men of this age, or of any age, extraordinary for the atrocity, the multitude and magnitude of his crimes, after long and deliberate preparation invaded one of the foreign States of this Confederacy for the avowed purpose of overthrowing her government, fomenting civil and servile strife among her citizens; murdering them and robbing them and destroying that domestic tranquility and sense of security which was one of the chief objects for which this Union was created; and a number of his accomplices before the fact, are now seated upon this floor, and some of them is claimed by all of his Republican colleagues, and a few who are Republicans in everything but name, as a proper person to preside over its deliberations.

Now, Mr. Clerk, while there may be but little doubt in the few remarks which I propose to submit, in the present temper of the House, I trust, their brevity may be some assurance that whatever objections they may be obnoxious to in other respects.

There is one feature of this infamous production, (the Helper book, which I shall not read, or cause to be read,) which has been the subject of such a great outcry, and denunciation from members on this side of the House, to which I wish especially to reply. He, author, and all those who have indorsed it, or contributed to its general circulation or its distribution, have, by implication, cast an aspersion upon the character of a large majority of the people I have the honor to represent upon this floor, and I desire to repel it. If any member on this side of the House—and there are many more competent to the task than myself—has defended that class of southern people to which I refer against the insulting assumptions contained in this book, it has escaped my notice. Mr. Helper and his coadjutors, in their treasonable and fiendish designs, judge, I suppose, from their knowledge of themselves. From their own necessarily cordial and active sympathies, they have adjudged that the holiest and loftiest motive which could impel a man was a lust of gain—in truth, the most degrading and infamous of all—have addressed themselves to the wildest and lowest passions and instincts of one class of the population in the Southern States, with the, no doubt, plausible hope that they could induce them to join in an unnatural and unholy crusade against the peace, the lives, and the fortunes o. another class.

The non-slaveholders of the Southern States are invited, in the name of religion and philanthropy, and for the privilege of plunder and spoliation and confiscation, to engage in war, indiscriminate and exterminating war, upon their low countrymen, their neighbors, their friends, their benefactors, oftentimes their kindred and brethren, because, forsooth, they are guilty of the inexplicable crime, in the estimation of the immaculate gentlemen on the other side of the House, with their sublimated ideas of virtue and morality, of owning slaves. I matters not that their names are illustrious—that to their ancestors we owe the beneficent Government under which we all might live peacefully, happily and prosperously together—a Washington, sir, might be the first victim. If a Jefferson had their lives been virtuous enough to merit, their days employed in the offices, and their fortunes distributed in alms and charities among the poor, the first Jefferson, and the less favored of their fellow-men. It matters not what they are, nor what they have done; themselves and their ancestors, and defenseless wives and children are to be involved in one common ruin. Age and sex and condition, private worth and public services, and illustrious ancestry, all plead in vain. Philanthropy—Republican philanthropy—demands the sacrifice, and it must be made.

No, sir, Republican hatred, bitter, deadly, and implacable, demands it, and is weak, and foolish, and insolent enough to seek shelters in its fiendish designs among the men who holding people of the Southern States. In their name I repel the insulting and dishonoring presumption; that class of people whom I have the honor to represent on this floor are as honorable and just, as brave and manly, as true and loyal to the institutions of their country as the ardent proprietor of his broad acres and his hundreds of slaves to till them. The men with whom I would repel Mr. Seward and all his followers that he could array under his reasonable and incendiary banner—rather his lieutenants and subalterns, his Brown, his Cooke, and his Coppoles, for he has too much of that better part of valor not to share himself the dangers into which he shrinks braver and better men—are those who are guilties of the unspeakable sin (of Republican eyes) of owning slaves. Sir, my constituents of that class are not poor. The area which under curse ferse for himself and family by his brow's sweat, which God ordained he should—by ordinary industry and frugality, will in a few years be himself the owner of several hundred acres of the richest, loordliest Republican much in all the domains of freedom, as you are pleased to term them, while he bemoans the fate of the poor negroes at the South, has men and women of his own race and color, physically, mentally, and morally his equals, often his superiors, wearing his livery—the badge of their servitude—and performing for him the most degrading offices, and receiving for compensation less than any human manger in the South bestows upon his slave, has not money enough, succeed as he may have been in hoarding up his too often ill-gotten gains, to hire the meekest, poorest, humblest one among them to do for him a menial service. An offer to employ him would be spurned with scorn, if not repelled with insult and violence.

This fellow-workers and co-philanthropists of Mr. Helper, forsooth, are those who you assume shall your force a for a practical illustration of your political theories and principles, expect to find allies and auxiliaries among the non-slaveholding people of the Southern States.

No, sir, in the language of the gentleman from this floor, (Mr. Corwin) the sponsor of the Republican party, in his celebrated speeches during the last war in which our country was engaged were so patriotic; breathed so much of loyalty and devotion to our institutions, of our Revolutionary fathers, and the holiest and loftiest motive which could impel a man was a lust of gain—in truth, the most degrading and infamous—have addressed themselves to the wisest and lowest passions and instincts of one class of the population in the Southern States, with the, no doubt, plausible hope that they could induce them to join in an unnatural and unholy crusade against the peace, the lives, and the fortunes o. another class.

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