

# The Watchman and Freeman

SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's"

THE TRUE SOUTHERN, Established June, 1846.

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ADDRESS BY J. J. DARGAN,

Delivered Before the Brooklyn (N. Y.)

Revenue Reform Club, March 19, 1856.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentle-

men:

My subject this evening is Paralle-

lisms of Negro Slavery and Protection

in the United States.

History has been defined as philoso-

phy teaching by example; and I sub-

mit that the friends and advocates of

a protective tariff might find in the

history of negro slavery in the United

States vast stores of political philosophy

whose teachings it would be well for

them to heed at once. The presence

of these two relics of a bygone

tyranny in the midst of the freest

of all the free peoples that ever in-

habited the globe; and the tena-

cions hold which they have appear-

ed to take upon institutions with

which they certainly have nothing in

common, and all a priori reasoning

would show them essentially at war,

present anomalous political phenom-

ena for the study of political philo-

sophers. Mr. Herbert Spencer has

labored to prove that "as unjust

customs and institutions derive their

violeness from a moral defect in the

people living under them, they must

be uniformly pervaded by that

violeness—that as social laws, creeds

and arrangements consist merely

of solidified character, in all

social laws, creeds and arrangements

co-exist; and that further, any

process of amelioration will affect

them simultaneously." And he gives

copious citations from history in ex-

emplification of his theory.

But we of this Republic are furnish-

ing a curious contradiction to this ap-

parently sound doctrine.

The great chart of American liberty

was given to the world over a cen-

tury ago, and our devotion to its

principles and rules of political con-

duct was attested by years of blood

and privations, and crowned with a

complete triumph at last against all

opponents to our National independ-

ence upon that basis.

In that celebrated instrument we de-

clared we held it "to be a self-evid-

ent truth that all men are created

equal and possessed of the unalien-

able right to life, liberty and the pur-

suit of happiness; and that "to se-

cure these rights governments are in-

stituted."

Yet only about twenty years ago

did we rid our government of a gross

form of human slavery, and such hold

had this relic of a darker day upon

our affections, that it took an iron

hand to tear it from us, and seas of

blood to cleanse us of its iniquities.

Then as if by some strange perva-

siveness of fate another form of slav-

ery fastened itself upon us, which

bid to rival in its defiant relative in-

stitution. Protection, as we now

have it, is the outgrowth of a tax

levied to carry on the war against ne-

gro slavery. The war, in other

words, for the liberation of the black

man has given birth to another form

of slavery for the white man; and

though less gross and repulsive in

character yet scarcely less blighting

in its effects. Oddly enough, too,

we find each of these forms of

slavery defended by many of our

most eminent citizens—find them

gravely arguing for each that "it is

a good, a positive good; the very

corner-stone of American civiliza-

tion." Strange as was this pheno-

men and notably by South Carolina,

to suppress the slave trade. But Eng-

land and New England found the

business of capturing wild Africans

and selling them to Southern planters

profitable, and thereby the attempts

at prohibition on the part of many of

the colonies were rendered ineffectual.

The mother country went so far as to

veto our import tax on slaves in her

zeal for business in the line of

human flesh and blood. So the in-

fant trade went on to the shame of

the buyers, to the greater shame of

the sellers, who traversed the seas to

fear their human wares from their na-

tive countries to bring them to the

American market for money. From

his early date to the day when Lin-

coln signed the proclamation of free-

dom was our country agonizing with

this unnatural growth on our free soil.

During the early days of the Republic

the South appeared to have recogniz-

ed with alarm "the plague spot on

her spreading," and many a man

from this section is recorded in de-

clamations of slavery, as strong as any

expressions that ever came from the

lips of the later day New England

abolitionists. Thomas Jefferson has

never been surpassed by any one in

the earnestness with which he point-

ed out the evils of the slave system

and the certainty that disasters to the

country and humiliation to the slave-

holders would be its followings. Yet,

though all admitted the evil and

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with hell," and somehow my inclina-

tion to do him honor is not checked

by the thought that he was a rebel

of the deepest dye, advocating resist-

ance to constituted authority with a resolu-

tion and daring only equalled by

those grand old rebels, Washington

and Adams, and Hamilton and Sum-

ter. Men will never incur dishonor

in this land, I suspect, for advocating

secession from slave-holding States,

or rebellion against a government

that grossly oppresses and wrongs

them. Our Republic is the offspring

of rebellion against tyranny and in-

justice. And had the South been

oppressed and wronged, rebellion

would have been honorable and suc-

cessful.

But men the world over were con-

vinced, because of her own declara-

tions and conduct, and that she se-

ceded, not in resistance to "oppres-

sion, but in order that she might

oppress without molestation. There-

fore, when her cause went

down liberty-loving people every-

where could not restrain their demon-

strations of joy, and to-day the South,

while dropping tears of deepest af-

fection upon the graves of her gallant

Confederate dead, rejoices with them,

that both she and her slaves are free.

Now has fairly opened the agitation

against commercial oppression.

Liberty is about to attempt to take

one more step forward. Fortunately,

this is no sectional issue and can-

not become so, and thus we are

saved from all apprehension of another

war.

Oppression will produce war, and

should produce it when all other

methods of resistance have been pa-