

## PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S LAST SPEECH.

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

So spoke the President at Gettysburg. The passion for obstetrical analogies appears to have exceeded from Mr. Seward to his chief. Questionable as may be the taste which represents the "fathers" in the stages of conception and parturition, that fault is small in comparison with gross ignorance, or willful mis-statement, of the primary fact in our history by a President of the United States.

Now, the Constitution not merely does not say one word about equal rights, but expressly admits the idea of the inequality of human rights.

The Declaration of Independence announced to the world, not that "our fathers had brought forth a new nation," but that the thirteen colonies had declared themselves free, sovereign and independent States. By the treaty of peace; Great Britain acknowledged, not a "new nation," but the sovereignty of Massachusetts, New York, &c., name by name, State by State.

But if the assertion of Mr. Lincoln were as correct as it is incorrect, that fact would avail him nothing.

This United States is not the United States which fought the War of Independence.

This United States is the result of the ratification of a compact known as the Constitution by eleven States originally, and such as have acceded since.

The States met in convention to form a government for themselves.

They framed a plan which was to go in operation when nine States acceded to and ratified it. In that convention some delegates from the (now) free States, and some from Virginia, felt and talked about slavery just as Mr. Lincoln feels and talks, just as Wendell Phillips feels and talks, just as Greeley feels and writes. Some others felt and talked, just as we feel and write, that slavery is an injury to the interests of both slave and master. Georgia and South Carolina said in substance, "We do not think as you think; we do not seek to convert you, nor can you convert us. Count us out." Thereupon it was clear that Maryland, Delaware, the two Carolinas, Georgia and Virginia would form a separate confederacy, and the rest of the States possibly another, if slavery was insisted upon as one of the subjects of Federal cognizance.

The other States had the option either to ally themselves with slavery or to cut loose from it. They chose the former, and cannot now, with the slightest fairness, hold to the benefits and reject the burdens of their bargain.

"But," says some one, "the world has progressed since the formation of the Constitution; slavery was not then regarded by mankind as it is now." What of that? Faith has not changed; the principles that govern contracts have not changed; your perceptions of the value of an Union have not changed. If the Constitution were to be made for the first time to-morrow, you would consent to a political union with slave States upon precisely the same terms as before. Do you want to separate now?

"But there is the war, caused by slavery," says another. When the rebellion is put down and the rebels dealt with, the States will still remain with all their rights as named in the Constitution. This is a question behind the war and behind the rebellion. The Abolitionists are fighting the war to settle it in their own way.

If the States which compose this Union will govern themselves in their feelings to, and relations with each other on the principles which govern honest men in their intercourse with each other, the States can continue in an Union for all time. If they will not, there must always be war; if they cannot, a Federal republic is one of the dreams of the enthusiast.—*N. Y. World.*