

The Emancipation Proclamation.

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No act of the President has called forth such a deluge of abuse, jeers, and constitutional twaddle from the opponents of the Administration as the proclamation of freedom to those persons who are held in bondage in the rebellious States, and in rebellious districts of other States.

"It is very unconstitutional;" says the *Chicago Times*.

"It is like the Pope's Bull against the comet;" says the *New York Express*.

"It is a *brutum fulmen*!" says the *Louisville Journal*.

"It is barbarous;" says the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

Thus along the whole conservative line resounded imprecations, derisions, and lugubrious protestations.

The President was a savage, a fool, a tyrant, a bloody usurper, a Nero, a Caligula, a cannibal, a murderer of women and children, a ghoul, a vampyre, a being whose ferocity made the rage of Moloch appear merciful, and the infernal barking of triple-headed Cerberus, the melodious voice of a syren. If the President had been a nervous man he would most likely have thrown himself where the aforesaid newspapers deserve to be—in the bosom of the Potomac. It is well for him that the long howls of the wolf and the screams of the wild-cat lulled his infantile ears, and soothed him to repose, in the wilds of Kentucky, many years ago. Early associations taught him to take things quietly.

But what is the testimony of time in regard to the efficacy of this much derided and abused proclamation? Let us consider. A few months ago the rebels were sanguine of recognition and open intervention by foreign governments, in their behalf. They were satisfied that Great Britain and France both longed for an occasion to succor the distressed Southern Confederacy. Many of our wisest and shrewdest politicians thought so also, and were deeply concerned at the imminent peril of foreign intervention, and a war with one or more nations of Europe. The *New York* dailies which had correspondents in Europe, repeatedly announced that we might expect to hear of the recognition of the Southern Confederacy, and foreign intervention by the next steamer. The aspect of our foreign affairs was alarming. The language of European officials seemed studiously frigid. We all felt that the nation could and would soon conquer the rebels thoroughly, if we were unmolested by foreign powers; but we felt at the same time that foreign intervention would cost us many thousands more of lives, many millions more of money, and many more years of embarrassment, darkness and sorrow.

Now it is plain that next to the vigorous prosecution of the war against the rebels, it would be a high achievement of statesmanship to take some step which would turn the tide of popular feeling in Europe in our favor, and so make it highly unpopular for any European government to act adversely to the interests of the Union. President Lincoln surveyed the whole ground carefully, and saw—

First, that slavery was a powerful source of strength to the rebels.

Second, that slavery was odious to the whole Christian world abroad as well as to five-sixths of the American people.

Third, That a blow at slavery, in the rebellious States, in the shape of an *Emancipation Proclamation*, would not only be right morally considered, but would enlist the active sympathies of the European people in behalf of our Government, and render foreign intervention almost impossible. He consequently issued his Proclamation to take effect on the first day of the present year. The results, hitherto, have been highly creditable to the foresight and sagacity of the President. The immense gatherings of the masses, over great Britain, to endorse and applaud the Proclamation; the eloquent orations for the Union, delivered by the most popular orators of Europe; the scathing invectives against negro slavery, in the public journals, far surpassing anything ever published before—all go to prove that the President has sounded a blast, to which the popular heart of Europe beats in joyful response. Why, if some strange infatuation, or lunacy were to drive any European monarch to send his armies to aid the slave oligarchy, their soldiers would desert by thousands, and join the flag of freedom.