

can never be sheathed again. The very existence of the loyal States will now depend upon the enforcement of this decree. Slavery is the heart of the South. The South will forgive everything else; but a serious and avowed determination to subvert that will never be forgiven. We can imagine how a party might have sprung up in the North, by and by; that would say to the South, only a fraction of radicals ever meant to subvert slavery; the loyal masses respected your rights. Pilate and Herod might have become friends again, if only Christ or his poor were on the cross!

But that delusive gloze and hollow truce are no longer possible. The nation is committed. Either there must be revolution in the North, or else all dissentients must submit, and the North stand as a mighty unit with the President!

\* \* \* Let sorrows fall fast; there is joy before us! We behold upon the troubled sea a Christ coming to us, walking on the waves! In his hand are winds and storms. Every hour now moves toward the great day of emancipation. At length the dawn shall bring that day most eminent in our national calendar. Amid all the festivities that usher in the year, there shall be a great joy, deeper, purer, holier, than ever came to us with the New Year, the joy of a nation that, after long sorrow and shame, shall cast off from itself the guilt of slavery, and stand erect before the world, a consistent witness for liberty!

—New York Independent.

We have long ago expressed the conviction that slavery in this country is doomed; and the advent of this Proclamation we can scarce consider, under the circumstances, as hastening its fate. Perfectly mad as the cotton States were in challenging a conflict for its extension, the ferocious spirit they have shown in the fight has, little by little, lost them the sympathies of the world at large; until left alone as its especial champions, and inadequate to sustain a much longer struggle, it would have perished, ultimately, whether the Executive had moved in the matter in the way he has seen fit to do or not.

And as to its effects upon the institution in the Border States, it is not at all problematical. If Virginia or North Carolina become free States by the terms of the Proclamation, the exemption resulting to Maryland is of no practical value whatever. With free States on both sides of her, who would care to own negroes here? and what possible advantage would we have over those obnoxious to the terms of the President's manifesto in other States? As the matter stands even at present, negro property here has become so uncertain in its tenure that in many portions of our commonwealth they are as good as free already.—Baltimore American.

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE HAS COME. \* \* \* We rejoice most heartily that the axe is laid to the root of the tree. The Proclamation meets our views both in what it does, and in what it omits to do. Its limitations show that President Lincoln means to preserve good faith toward the loyal border slave States. So long as they are loyal, their slaves are safe; let them become rebellious, and the terms of the Proclamation will reach them like their sisters in revolt.—Hartford (Ct.) Courant.

So splendid a vision has hardly shone upon the world since the day of the Messiah. From the date of this Proclamation begins the history of the republic as our fathers designed to have it—the home of freedom, the asylum of the oppressed, the seat of justice, the land of equal rights under the law, where each man, however humble, shall be entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Let no one think to stay the glorious reformation. Every day's events are hastening its triumph, and whosoever shall place himself in its way, it will grind him to powder.—Chicago Tribune.

We all know, of course, that this Proclamation is a *brutum fulmen*, unless the rebellion is overcome by force of arms. The same objection, however—if it is one—applies to a large portion of our efforts during this war. But the use which all loyal persons will make of this consideration will be, not to decry the proclamation and discourage military effort, but to push on the war all the more unitedly and vigorously, in order that this new auxiliary may come in at the right time. This is the very purpose for which the measure has been chosen by the constituted authorities. Shall we sustain them therein, then, as we have in their other war measures? Or shall we desert them and weaken their hands in this critical hour, by sowing the seeds of dissension, detraction, discouragement and failure? It seems to us that no good citizen can fail to see his duty, or decline to do it manfully.—Boston Journal.

This Proclamation will be received by the loyal States with a perfect *furor* of acclamation. It will lose the President a few latter day friends, who did not profess to become such until after his election, and who have been so now only for their own sinister purposes. But it will restore to the President all his old friends, and unite the sound portion of the people in one solid and impregnable mass in support of the Union and the Constitution.—Washington Republican.

This Proclamation of the President is the decree of fate rather than the utterance of any man, and no one who has thoughtfully observed the course of recent events could fail to foresee that the cloud settling darkly around us would very soon be lighted up with a flash that would mark the turning point of the accumulation. The storm is not over, but it is no longer gathering. We can see now that there is to be an end, and we know the end is to be favorable to the future unity and prosperity of this great nation.—Philadelphia North American.

We have no doubt the President's policy, as laid down in his Proclamation, will be approved by an immense majority of the people of the United States who are loyal to our republican form of government. They have been called upon and are now called upon to make vast sacrifices for the general welfare. Their blood is being poured out like water, and their treasure is being lavished by hundreds of millions of dollars, to maintain in the field an army greater than that of any of the military empires of Europe. This state of affairs cannot of course continue indefinitely. If any action can be taken respecting the slaves that will tend to bring the war to a conclusion, that action will be endorsed by the people with an approach to unanimity. The most conservative cannot complain that the President has not shown, and is not showing, an eminent degree of moderation. The rebels are now only informed that at the end of three months the government will cease to recognise their slaves as property. It cannot be alleged that this is not giving fair warning.

We have conclusive evidence that the President is not deluded with any notion that a Proclamation is likely in itself to end the war. A committee which recently left Chicago to urge upon him the issue of a Proclamation of immediate, universal and unconditional emancipation, and to arm the negroes to fight for the Union, made a report at a public meeting held at Chicago, on Saturday night, of their interview with him. Their report shows that he fully understands the practical aspects of the case.—Cincinnati Commercial.

Now the issue is presented. Slavery is to be interfered with—unless the rebels ground arms; and we invite the "butternuts" to toc the mark, make the issue, and the civilized world may look on while the greatest contest the world ever saw is to be decided—a contest in which the loyal men of the Union must battle with the slavery propagandists of the South and the powers of darkness, under the guise of democracy, in the North.—Cleveland (Ohio) Herald.

THE PRESS ON THE PRESIDENT'S EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION.

We send forth to-day the most important paper ever published in the *Independent*—the most extraordinary document ever proceeding from this government. It is a decree of substantial emancipation, issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy of the United States of America. Perhaps it is too much to say that it is a decree of emancipation. It is rather a solemn notice served upon rebellious States that such a decree will be made upon the 1st of January, 1863. It is like a bond for a deed, and will in due time compel the execution and delivery of the deed.

There can be no state paper imagined more noble than one which carries substantial liberty to millions of slaves. It is that very moral grandeur and sublime importance which make us jealous of anything which threatens its certainty or diminishes its moral power.

\* \* \* This decree of emancipation is the dividing line between a dark past and a hopeful future. The sun crosses the equator, travelling northward. The days hereafter will grow longer, and the nights shorter.

We now see that secession being the premise, emancipation must be the logical conclusion.

That Proclamation is the drawing of a sword that