

THE GOSPEL TRIBUNE, AND CHRISTIAN COMMUNIONIST

A
Monthly Interdenominational Journal.

VOLUME III.]

JUNE, 1856.

[NUMBER 2.

"ONE IS YOUR MASTER, even CHRIST: AND ALL YE ARE BRETHREN."

THE ISSUES OF 1856.

These now stand up in the sight of all men an exceeding great army—like the mysteriously *revue*, seen by the enrapt prophet in the valley of vision. The bones of these issues have long been seen lying scattered among the nations of the earth; and although long "very dry," latterly they became instinct with life—each joined its fellow—the dry frames shake ominously; they *ssumesh*, till compacted by that which every joint supplieth and quickened; they stand up—they move—their tread awakens terror among all nations. A conflict of opposing issues has commenced. For a time it is most fierce in Africa, then in Asia, next in Europe and now in America. Everywhere the struggle prevails, and all are asking, with ever increasing depth of earnestness, what shall the end of these things be?

At the present moment the struggle between freedom and slavery in the American Union is so intense as to make it probable that the nation has commenced its final conflict on this question. The pride and haughtiness of slavery, inflated to madness by the long forbearance of Freedom's Legions, has in blindness to its utter impotency ventured to lift the arm of physical intimidation, and insanely thrown down the gauntlet to Northern freemen in a manner the most insulting and irritating that could be devised. Throughout the North, deep calleth unto deep. None seem willing longer to endure the gross insults of the South. Of the defiant tone of the outraged North the following from the *New York Independent* is given as indicative of its spirit:—

"Let no one be surpris'd if the war of the bludgeon and the revolver upon free speech, covertly begun in the Senate, should break out openly in the House of Representatives. If the bloody threats of Brooks and his allies shall be put into execution—if other Northern men shall be assaulted for freedom of speech in debate—the question whether the federal government shall yield to brute force must be determined upon the instant. And it will be determined. Let the blood of Northern men again flow in the Capitol, and Washington would not contain the men who would pour in upon it from the North and the West to vindicate the right of speech. Let another such a blow as has fallen upon Senator Sumner be inflicted upon a Northern representative, and within twenty-four hours, New York and Boston, Connecticut and Massachusetts, Maine and Ohio, will rush to arms for the defense of freedom at Washington."

In viewing the position in which slaveholders have placed themselves in this contest, it seems perfectly appropriate to apply to them the declaration of God, "Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall." On this question all have a right to speak. The friends of freedom in America, may justly call upon every man to give his utterance on this question. As a just expression of Canadian feeling, the following is copied from the "*Independent*," Toronto:—

"The Demoralizing Influence of Slavery has been remarkably exemplified in the approval which has been accorded in the South to the infamous blackguard who assaulted Mr. Sumner in the Senate Chamber at Washington. That Slavery fosters tyranny—begets lawlessness,—inures to violence—foments bad passions—makes men intolerant, implacable, and careless of life, we all know—that men brought up under its influence should be incapable of bearing reproof, resolve revenge upon slight provocation, and in hot blood sometimes assault a political adversary, we might all expect; but that an assault should be deliberately planned in answer to mere parliamentary taunts, and all but murderously carried into effect; and that this savage outrage, committed in what should be the very temple of Freedom—the Capitol at Washington—should be approved by all classes of a community which prides itself on being American—this, we say, is evidence of a public sentiment so thoroughly debauched and demoralised, that we could not have conceived it possible, had not the facts been undeniable. Here is this fellow—complimented, petted, rewarded, testimonials are presented to him; he is a gentleman, forsooth! "a defender of the rights of the south;" the chivalry of Georgia, Virginia and South Carolina sustain him; "the Hon. W. F. de Saussure" expresses his admiration for him; his Excellency Governor Adams approves his conduct; Mr. Presto. hoped the funds of the State of Georgia would be freely used for his defence; Mr. Bellingher "considered the castigation inflicted in the right place, on the right individual, and with the right instruments;" and threats are held out that others will be similarly assaulted. There is something revolting about all this; it is a dark chapter in the history of human nature. We would willingly close the book; but we cannot close the book; it forces itself on our attention, and its lesson flashes upon us through the darkness—Slavery is a curse; Slavery is a viper in the bosom that cherishes it; Slavery is a poison in the body politic; Slavery destroys self-respect, subverts order, confounds intelligence, and bars freedom of thought and speech; Slavery undermines the society that is built upon it; Slavery, if not abolished, may ruin the United States. It is a crime against God and man; and with its upholders we will have nothing to do."