

I would not otherwise have done so, but I will now call upon the South to answer, Who is most subject to this accusation? If it be the North, let her endure it. If it be the South, then let the South answer for her own conduct before she arraigns others at the bar of public opinion.

I was not a member of this House during the last session of Congress. I did not hear the debate as it occurred on this floor upon the exciting and absorbing topic of the session; but after hearing my portion of the country traduced by this accusation of being sectional, and of acting under the influence of such unworthy motives, I concluded to refer to the debates, and see what had been said, during the discussion of the Texas resolution, by gentlemen who come from the South. I have made this examination, and I find the record more than sustains my recollection. I am surprised, after finding such declarations as were then made by distinguished gentlemen from the South, who stand so high before the country, that this charge of being sectional should now be brought forward against the North. Why, sir, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. HOLMES) spoke upon the subject, and on the occasion to which I have alluded; and I beg leave to call the attention of the committee and the country to some passages from his published speech. Here they are:

"Let the South look to it. He warned them that if the area of Southern interest and Southern growth was to be thus circumscribed, while the area for Northern expansion was stretched beyond the Rocky Mountains, until the Western hunter and the Northern emigrant should lave their weary limbs in the waters of the calm Pacific, the South would indeed be wretched."

Again:

"It is no time for the South to pause, to temporize, to compromise. The time for safe concession has gone by: opinions are arrayed; the South must meet the crisis; Texas is the stake—"

"Here must we stand,  
And breast us to the shock."

These are Southern sentiments, spoken by a Southern gentlemen, uttered in this Hall less than twelve months since.

This speech deprecates the power of the North to expand to the Pacific, while Southern growth was circumscribed. It declares that it was then no time for the South to pause—that the South must meet the crisis, for TEXAS was the stake. Well, sir, the crisis was met, and the stake was won; and the result is, the extension of Southern interests, and the perpetuation of slavery, I fear. I do not pause, however, to look at the manner in which the "stake" was won, nor to anticipate the consequences that are to follow. I would, for the sake of my country's honor, if it were in my power, throw the mantle of oblivion over the deed itself, and the mode of its consummation; and I hope Heaven may avert the consequences which I have ever feared would follow in the train of this event.

But, Mr. Chairman, in the face of these things, still fresh and green in the recollection of all, it is impossible for me to hear, without rebuking its author, this charge against the North of being sectional. I throw it back. If it applies to any party, or any portion of the country, it is not applicable to me, or my political friends. I will add, however, sir, in conclusion, that after this strange avowal, to which I have just alluded, coming from the high source that it did, I feel that I may say, "it is no time for the North to pause or to temporize—opinions are arrayed, and we must meet the crisis." Oregon is the stake.

"Here must we stand,  
And breast us to the shock."

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