

is to error
ded, tends
standard.
e ideas or
the latent
vilization,
m? The
Christian
soul, than
lists of all
an mind.
it be re-
published,
that tells
nd march-
—not Pre-
thou not,"
mighty?"
ome of us
the tragic
was intro-
creed—a
false phil-
nd finally
d. That
," which,
contained
ublished,
heard from
the shap-
an all the
n. Take
th," that

speaks of human equality and of God-given rights of man:
"We hold these truths to be self evident :—That all men
are created equal ; that they are endowed by their Crea-
tor with certain inalienable rights ; that among these are
life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." These are
wonderful words. Say not that no beam of Divine light
came to the mind that uttered these Divine thoughts ! How
the sound of these potent words has rolled like eloquent
thunder from State to State, from East to West and from
North to South, till dull is the ear that has not heard it !
Nor was there *thunder* alone in these words. There was
lightning in them, and the lightning has struck, shiver-
ing iron bonds (for lightning loves to strike iron) till the
last slave is free ! This is the effect of a political creed,
illuminating, energizing and inspiring the people, and
burning in their hearts, till it burned its way out in terri-
ble action. We believe the "Declaration" hastened eman-
cipation a whole generation.

But the creed of the church, and particularly the Metho-
dist Church, hastened the same grand consummation.
Note the effect of a single fragment of a creed on Slavery
in the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States.
In the "General Rules" of the Church, which are of the
nature of a Creed, were found a few simple words, seem-
ingly very innocent, on the subject of slavery. Among
the things forbidden is "*the buying and selling of men,
women, and children, with the intention to enslave them.*"
There it stood in the "Discipline" of the Church for
nearly three quarters of a century, by its God-given logic
and all-persuasive rhetoric, anchoring the storm-tossed
Church to the Rock of Eternal Truth. How "Conserva-
tive" men and "border" men quibbled and winced and
struggled ! But there was the principle of imperish-