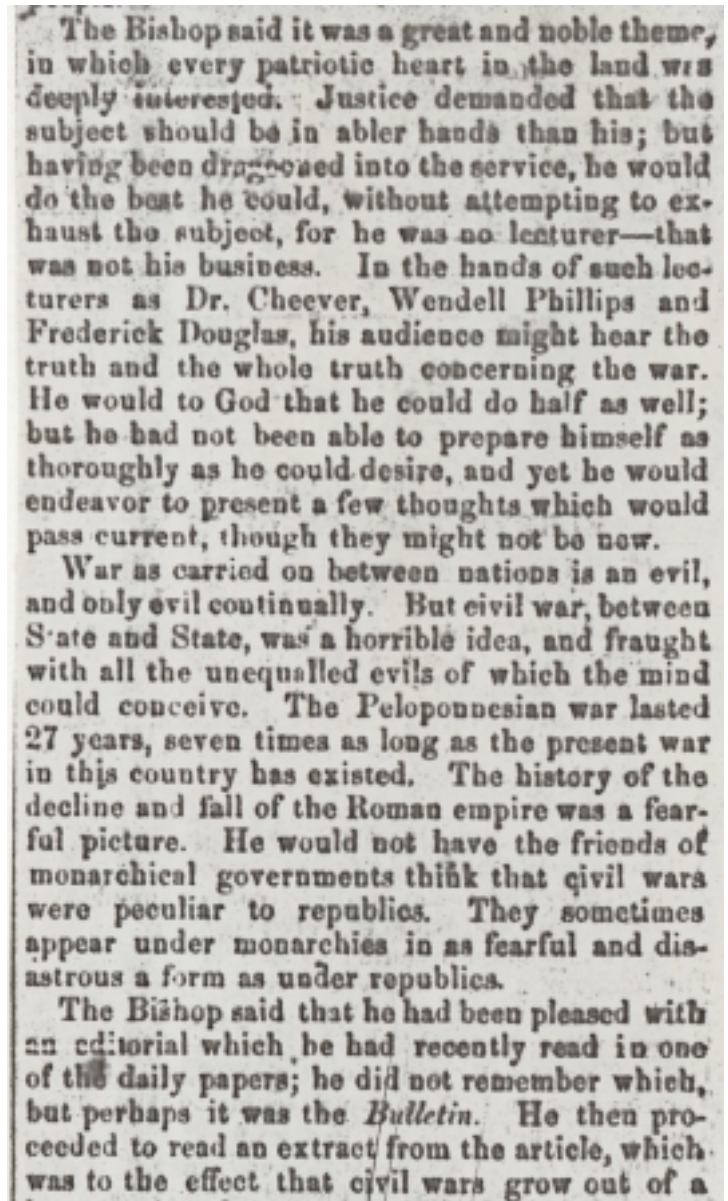


The Bishop said it was a great and noble theme in which every patriotic heart in the land was deeply interested. Justice demanded that the subject should be in abler hands than his; but having been dragooned into the service, he would do the best he could, without attempting to exhaust the subject, for he was no lecturer—that was not his business. In the hands of such lecturers as Dr. Cheever, Wendell Phillips and Frederick Douglas, his audience might hear the truth and the whole truth concerning the war. He would to God that he could do half as well; but he had not been able to prepare himself as thoroughly as he could desire, and yet he would pass current, though they might not be new.

War as carried on between nations is an evil, and only evil continually. But civil war, between State and State, was a horrible idea, and fraught with all the unequalled evils of which the mind could conceive. The Peloponnesian war lasted 27 years, seven times as long as the present war in this country has existed. The history of the decline and fall of the Roman empire was a fearful picture. He would not have the friends of monarchical government think that civil wars were peculiar to republics. They sometimes appear under monarchies in as fearful and disastrous a form as under republics.

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long-continued peace, in which the country had become corrupt, and acted as a natural purifier, just like the storm which succeeds a calm sultry spell of weather, etc. So it is, he said, with the life of a nation, and our experience has added truth to the remark. Who believed, ten years ago, that this country would be where it is to-day, in the midst of terrible bloodshed? No one knew it, no one saw it, if we may perhaps except Captain John Brown, freedom's martyr. [Applause.] But here it is, and we are in the midst of it. Nearly four years ago, treason fired upon Sumter, and the deep-toned thunder of that cannon's roar reverberated throughout the entire country, and awoke a nation from its peaceful slumber to the fearful realities of war. The flag of our country trailed in the dust by rebel hands, was more than patriotic hands could endure. Army after army has gone forth, and the work of death has been going on without abatement until the present time.

The Bishop then inquired into the causes of the war. He referred to the pro-slavery acts of Congress as one cause; to the disappointed hopes of the black man in the Revolutionary War as another cause. To keep the British from enticing them into their service, we promised them their freedom on the termination of the war, but failed to keep the promise. And in the prosperity which peace brought to the country the chains of the slave were riveted afresh. The increased importance of the cotton crops, the expansion of the country, all had added to the

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rigors and strength of slavery. The slaveholding party dictated the policy of the Government from the adoption of the Constitution down to the election of Lincoln, when that party was defeated, and the record of half a century of pro-slavery acts was brought to a sudden and abrupt conclusion. When these acts of Congress ceased, the anti-slavery acts were introduced.

Reference was then made to the three-fifth rule of 1792; to the law passed the same year for the rendition of fugitives; to the 6<sup>th</sup> article of the ordinance of 1781 in regard to the extension of slavery, etc. At the time of the passage of these acts, the friends of freedom were not awake. They did not suppose that efforts were being made to strengthen the bands of slavery. It was one of the complaints of the colonies against England that she encouraged the African slave trade. Slavery was forced upon this country contrary to its wishes; and the negroes were encouraged to fight against England by the promise of their liberty. But after the declaration of peace, the devilish slave-mongers went to work again—secretly, of course. They got ambiguous provisions inserted in the Constitution; they blinded the eyes of the fathers of the Constitution by their agreeable manners. Our revolutionary sires did not believe in slavery. George Washington, the father of his country, did not believe the institution ought to exist. [Applause.] the South then begged that slavery might exist, and now they are fighting for its existence. But it will die; it will be buried, and he trusted in God

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that he should live to attend its funeral. [Loud applause ] In 1820 slavery wanted more room—it requires a great deal of room in which to live—and the Missouri Compromise was passed. A compromise between slavery and freedom is a libel upon God and humanity—[Applause.]—and can never succeed to the advantage of the compromisers. [Applause.]

The Nullification Act of J.C. Calhoun, whom Jackson regretted, on his dying bed, that he did not hang as high as Haman, and the Fugitive Bill of abomination “signed by that unholy demagogue, Millard Fillmore,” were then referred to in no measured terms of condemnation. God was displeased with this nation for these things. Her cup of iniquity was full and running over, and the righteous judgment of the Almighty followed. The North began to feel that she was yoked with slavery, and that the time for reaction had commenced. They had begun to see that Slavery was degrading to free white labor, and that it must be got rid of, or it would overflow the free and expanding territories of the country. The agitation of the subject resulted in the triumph of the Republican party in 1860, and placed Abraham Lincoln, the immortal, the true and the faithful, in the Presidential chair. The South saw—and well she might see—that in Mr. Lincoln’s election she had been rebuked for her audacity. (Applause.) She saw that her power was gone, never to return. What did she do? She did not hesitate as to what to do. She withdrew from the Union,

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the Union. As for party differences, they would talk about them after the war. But for the present they wanted to have peace, and they must have peace, if they had to fight for it. (Applause) The South did not expect such treatment. The North, also, had been greatly disappointed in the military strength of the South. They thought they were all gentlemen down there, and that they would not and could not fight—that it was only a breakfast job to go down there and whip them into obedience. The South told us that this was easier said than done, and our experience during the past three years has demonstrated the truth of their remark. And now, if we make them behave themselves better in three years, we shall do well.

At first we tried to put down the rebellion without touching slavery, but God would not consent to the arrangement. His decree had gone forth, that slavery must be abolished or the country destroyed. If the nation does not now get rid of slavery, it will get rid of itself, for God will destroy it. The soldiers were careful at first to state that they did not go to war to fight for the freedom of the slave, but for the Union; now the issue is distinctly between freedom and slavery, and the soldiers now gloried in fighting for the abolition of slavery. The progress of the war has developed the need and practicability of employing coloured troops. The objection to them has been done away, and now they are pressed into the service, and are paid the same as the white soldiers; and they fight as

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The Bishop then alluded to the anti-slavery acts of the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth sessions of Congress. These have been great gains for the negro during the last four years. Hayti and Liberia have been acknowledged, and Ministers received from them. He was afraid that the effort Georgia was now making to get back into the Union was that it might thereby save the "institution" in that State. It would not be so if our old friend Ben. Butler was at Savannah. (Applause.) He trusted it would not be so now.

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He also told his hearers of the advantages which the black man had in travelling in the vicinity of the war. A few years ago, if a black man in Washington wanted to visit Baltimore, it was necessary to get a pass from a white man, or from a man who called himself white. Now the tables were turned. He had travelled from Washington to Baltimore, and from Baltimore to Philadelphia without a pass. He had seen those who were once the black man's masters attempt the same thing and fail. (Applause.)

He told his brethren that while they should rejoice in the advantages they had gained, they should hold to them, and seek for more, until all the objections against their color were removed. The black man, as a barrel, had been rolled to the bottom of a hill. They could not be kicked any lower, and now they were being rolled up the hill. Revolutions never go backwards. We should elevate ourselves, now that the obstacles to our elevation are being removed. Five Slave States have already been made free,

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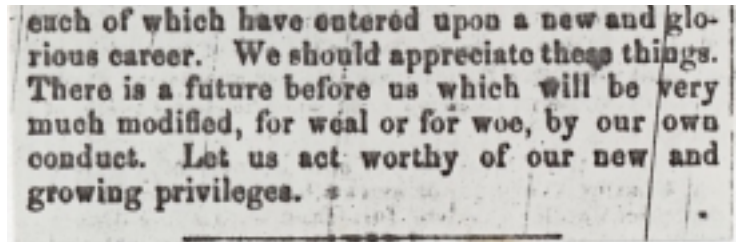
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