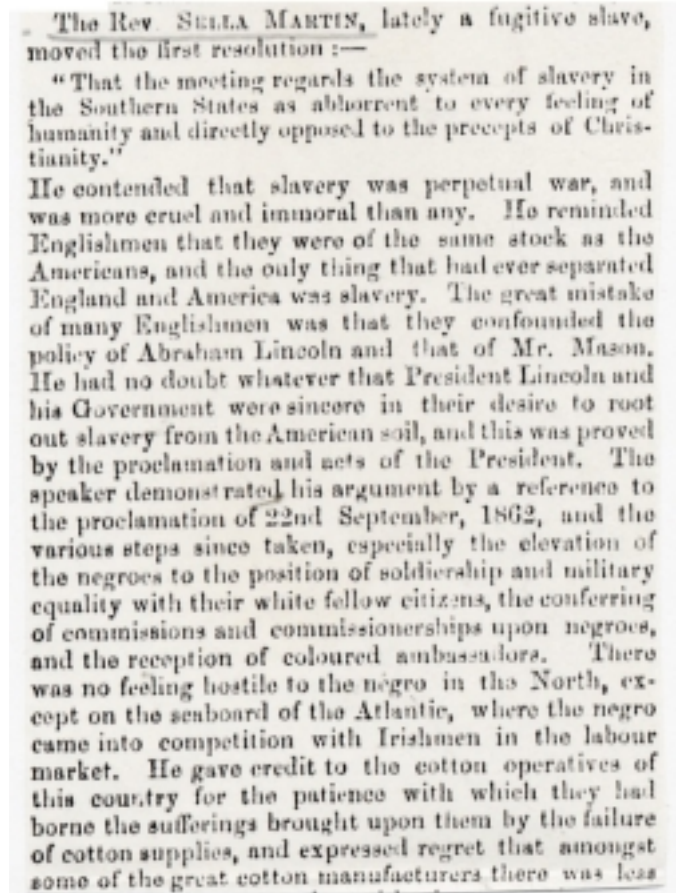


The Rev. SELLA MARTIN, lately a fugitive slave, moved the first resolution:—

“That the meeting regards the system of slavery in the Southern States as abhorrent to every feeling of humanity and directly opposed to the precepts of Christianity.”

He contended that slavery was perpetual war, and was more cruel and immoral than any. He reminded Englishmen that they were of the same stock as the Americans, and the only thing that had ever separated England and America was slavery. The great mistake of many Englishmen was that they confounded the policy of Abraham Lincoln and that of Mr. Mason. He had no doubt whatever that President Lincoln and his Government were sincere in their desire to root out slavery from the American soil, and this was proved by the proclamation and acts of the President. The speaker demonstrated his argument by a reference to the proclamation of 22nd September, 1862, and the various steps since taken, especially the elevation of the negroes to the position of soldiership and military equality with their white fellow citizens, the conferring of commissions and commissionerships upon negroes, and the reception of coloured ambassadors. There was no feeling hostile to the negro in the North, except on the seaboard of the Atlantic, where the negro came into competition with Irishmen in the labour market. He gave credit to the cotton operatives of this country for the patience with which they had borne the sufferings brought upon them by the failure of cotton supplies, and expressed regret that amongst some of the great cotton manufacturers there was less



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self-denial and a sympathy with slavery, which they even went so far as to attempt to justify by the authority of the Bible. It had been said that the North could never conquer the South. What had occurred at New Orleans, at Fort Hudson, Fort Sumter, Fort Wagner, and the approaching fall of Charleston was the best answer to that statement. He held that it would be absolutely criminal on the part of Abraham Lincoln to allow the South to separate from the Union, and thus perpetuate slavery in the Southern States. He was bound, having driven out the spirit of slavery in the North, to spare no effort to extinguish it once and for ever in the South likewise. But if it were not the duty of President Lincoln to maintain the Union, it was a physical impossibility for him to let the South go, unless he could dry up the Ohio, the Mississippi, and the other great rivers which, in their course to sea, bound all the States together in bonds indissoluble. There was no line, real or imaginary, separating the North from the South, and it was impossible to define one. He continued by showing that if the South could be separated from the North, war between the Southern States and England would be inevitable, because the first step of the South must be to strengthen themselves by endeavoring to arm Central America, which would necessarily bring them into collision with England and other European powers. He gave some details from personal experience and observation, indicative of the horrible cruelties practised by the slaveowners (ministers of the Gospel amongst them) upon the slaves, and which he believed to be unavoidable while the system existed; but the physical suffering which

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