

Dr. J. B. SMITH was then introduced, and said he did not appear with a prepared speech, and he was in hopes to have seen the proclamation of the President consequent on that of September last. Although he had been led to believe in the honesty of Mr. Lincoln, yet none could blame him for being fearful that something might occur to prevent the issuing of the proclamation of emancipation. But he had faith in God, in whose hands he was sure freedom could not long be delayed. He knew that the claim made that the slaves did not desire their freedom was only made by those who knew that they who were valuable to their masters were most violently opposed to the institution, and that they had entire control of those whose sentiments they falsely pretend to represent. He thought if the black race had been equal in numbers to the white, slavery would have been abolished long ago, perhaps never would have existed.

The war was not caused by Abolitionists, but was a judgment of God for the wickedness of slavery.—“The Union as it was and the Constitution as it is” was an idle motto. The old Union could never exist again, for it would guarantee the fullest protection to the slaveholder, which is a crime against God and humanity.

The speaker commented with severity on those who signed the petition for the passage of the Crittenden Compromise, and insisted that we must either have slave labor or free labor, and the advantage of the latter would surely carry the day. He wanted to see black men enlisted as soldiers, see them placed on an equality with the white race, see their manhood recognized, and with God on our side, and the black man fighting for his freedom, there will be no such word as fail in this great struggle.

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