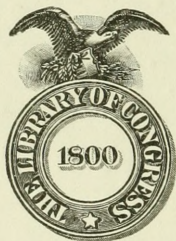


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THE
ASSASSINATION

OF THE

President of the United States

OVERRULED FOR THE GOOD OF OUR COUNTRY.

A Discourse Preached in the M. E. Church,
Pittston, Penna., June 1st, 1865.

REV. N. G. PARKE, A.M.



PITTSSTON, PA.:
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PITTSTON, PA.:
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Pittston, June 2d, 1865.

REV. N. G. PARKE:

DEAR SIR:

The Committee appointed by the Union Meeting of the citizens of Pittston, for observing the National Fast Day, occasioned by the death of the late President of the United States, solicit in their behalf and at their request, a copy of the discourse delivered in the M. E. Church by you on the occasion, for publication.

Respectfully yours,

A. TOMPKINS,
A. KNAPP,
CHAS. LAW,
JOHN A. PRICE,
DAVID MORGAN,
BENJ. HARDING,
B. D. BEYEA,
JOHN RICHARDS,
G. M. RICHART,
THOS. LEYSHON,
THEO. STRONG,

Committee.

PRESBYTERIAN PARSONAGE,

Pittston, Pa., June 6th, 1865.

Messrs. A. TOMPKINS, A. KNAPP and others.

GENTLEMEN:

The discourse, a copy of which you have requested for publication, was prepared hastily and without the most remote idea of its publication. It is, however, at your disposal.

Yours, truly,

N. G. PARKE.

SERMON.

GENESIS 50 : 20.

“But as for you, ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good.”

It is difficult always to know the design of God in events that are passing. After they are fully past, history reveals their design, and for that revelation we must be willing to wait.

For the revelation of the design of God in the rebellion that has culminated in the assassination of our President, it does not appear that we will have to wait long. The design of those who inaugurated the rebellion, according to their confessions, was, to establish more firmly the institution of *slavery*, by severing their connexion with the free North, and one design of God in it was evidently to destroy that *institution*. Belshazzar's doom was not more clearly written on the wall of his palace by the fingers of a man's hand, than the doom of slavery has been written in the blood that this rebellion has shed. Still it is not well to limit the design of God. He may have other purposes to accomplish, with reference to which, what is now so apparent, may be but as the first fruits. It is never best to be very confident in interpreting the designs of God, until, in his providence, they are made clear. “Secret things belong unto the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children.” Of what has been made clear, we may speak with confidence.

Those who planned and executed the assassination of the President, meant it for evil. They had indulged a feeling of hatred towards him personally, and they desired the destruction of the government he administered—an end

they hoped to accomplish by introducing such confusion in its administration as would, in their judgment, flow from the assassination of the President and his prominent advisers. They were short-sighted, as those having evil purposes to accomplish usually are. The brethren of Joseph hated him and sold him as a slave. This wickedness of their's God overruled for good. The designs of Daniel's enemies in Babylon were evil, but their efforts to injure him only gave him prominence and power and caused a knowledge of his God to be spread abroad. The purpose of Haman was to destroy all the Jews in the dominion of Ahasuerus. It was conceived in sin and evinced the most bitter cruelty and hatred, but God designed it for his people's good and the overthrow of their enemies. Haman was hanged on the gallows he prepared for Mordecai, "and Mordecai went out from the presence of the King in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple." Thus Jehovah thwarts the purposes of evil men, and overrules their most earnest and apparently successful efforts for the good of his people and the glory of his great name. The rebellion, from its commencement to its close, has been an illustration of this truth. That was a dark day in our history on which the rebels opened fire on Fort Sumter; yet that fire roused a spirit of patriotism in the loyal North, without which the rebellion could not have been crushed. The defeat of our army in the first Bull Run battle caused many to despair of our success, but that defeat was necessary to show to our Government the determination of the rebels and their strength, and to encourage them in the work of self-destruction. Our success in that battle might have crushed the rebellion but not the egg from which rebellion is hatched. Our defeat at Fredericksburg filled our hospitals to overflowing with the wounded and the dying, but it prepared the way for the Emancipation Proclamation—it nerved the President to make, and the Nation to sustain him in carrying out, that immortal proc-

lamation of Liberty to the enslaved. The assassination of the President threw a shadow over the hearts of the loyal millions of our land, but it has not been without its happy effects on the cause he so much loved and in behalf of which so many brave men have died. It is of some of these effects already discoverable that I propose to speak.

The *assassination* is not a matter entirely separate from the rebellion, it is but one scene in the same tragedy. The rebellion however is a broad subject, too broad for us to enter on here. It has furnished largely, material for the historian, the artist, the statesman, and the moralist as well as for the preacher; and we are really too near the scene and the time of the gigantic struggle to write of it calmly and intelligently. The dust and the smoke of the battle have not yet passed away. If the curtain has fallen on the last scene there is very much work yet to do, the doing of which calls for wisdom, and grace, and strength; and the wisest speculations in regard to the rebellion are worth much less just now than earnest prayer to God for guidance in this eventful crisis in our country's history.

The effects already apparent, of the assassination of the President of the United States on the cause he represented, is the subject to which I wish your attention. Of his governmental views, character, work and death, I have spoken to some of you at length on a former occasion.

1. One marked effect of the assassination has been *to unite us more firmly as a people, and to strengthen our determination to exterminate treason in our land.* There is in a government like ours, composed of separate States and embracing a vast extent of country, varying in soil, productions and climate, and with a population differing widely in their habits, a tendency to undue State-isolation. We have felt it, and the prevalence of the pestiferous and disintegrating doctrine of State Rights, as set forth by Calhoun and his followers, had well nigh swept away the foundations of our Federal Government. With many of the pro-

fessed friends of the government, it was questioned whether there was authority in the Federal Constitution for the suppression of the Confederate Rebellion—a rebellion of states, and if there was such authority, it was a question whether there was power in the government to execute the laws. The Federal Government was spoken of as “a rope of sand,” and at the time the rebellion was inaugurated, its power to hold together under the pressure brought to bear against it was exceedingly problematical. Men in Congress told the nation boldly that if they could not have their own way they would dissolve the Union and crush the Government, and they verily believed they could do it. The assassination of the President has made the citizens of the different States feel that they have a common country. He belonged to the whole country, he was our President. This was the feeling of all loyal men North, South, East and West, as his lifeless body was borne from the capital of the nation to its resting place in the West. His blood cemented us. Those petty jealousies that have manifested themselves between loyal States of different sections of our country, have been buried, as the sons of these States have gathered round the coffin of their fallen chief and vied with each other to do him honor. And not only so, the determination has been strengthened to crush rebellion, that foul spirit of the pit that has stained our land with blood. In our rejoicings over the submission of the insurgents, we were disposed to overlook what rebellion has done—to forget the battle fields on which the bones of loyal men are bleaching, to forget the prisons in which loyal men were starved by the thousands, to forget the long rows of maimed and suffering and dying men that we have seen stretched in our hospitals, but this bloody deed dried up the kindness of the Nation’s heart, and the cry is now for justice. Over the remains of the assassinated President the vow has been made that *treason must die*. This is the vengeance demanded by an incensed people, and that must be had. Those who administer the government understand this,

and mercy mingled with justice will henceforth be meted out to such as are guilty of treason.

2. It is true, further, *that the assassination of the President has tended to reveal more fully the base designs of the leaders of the rebellion*, to show what they are, and what they are willing to do, in order to accomplish their vile purposes. We speak of the *leaders* of the rebellion particularly, because they are the guilty ones in all this matter. The investigation growing out of the assassination has not been completed, but enough has been unearthed to show that this foul murder was planned and executed by those who were in the interest of the rebellion, and with the sanction and co-operation of its representative men. They laid the plan to fire our cities in the stillness of the night, which, if successful, would have burned up thousands of inoffensive women and children. They laid their plans for burning and blowing up our ships, which, if they had been successful, must have destroyed the lives of vast numbers, who were in no sense belligerents. They made an earnest effort to introduce the yellow fever in our most populous cities, and their failure we can only attribute to the protecting care of our Heavenly Father. They have not only wilfully and deliberately starved our soldiers in their prisons, they placed under those prisons torpedoes, with a view of blowing them up, in case of danger lest the prisoners might escape. And to crown all, they laid their plans to assassinate the President and the heads of the different Departments, civil and military, and in this effort they have been partially successful. The claim of men who could engage in work so diabolical as this, or even connive at it, to be "the very soul of honor," is the garb of the serpent who would be esteemed as "an angel of light." The revelations that have been made in the progress of the investigations growing out of the assassination, have been humiliating and painful exceedingly, but it is well they have been made. It is well for our government to understand fully the char-

acter of the men with whom it has to deal—and on this subject they cannot now have any reasonable doubts.

3. The views of the President on the subject of Emancipation, reconstruction, confiscation, and other subjects growing out of the war, would no doubt in the main have been carried out if he had lived. They would, however, have been strenuously opposed in some directions and possibly defeated. *But his death has disarmed opposition and made it certain that his views will be carried out.* From the Emancipation Proclamation, on the propriety of which the country was divided at one time, not one jot or tittle will be taken away. If the President can no longer reason, the words that have fallen from his lips on the subject have new power. The eloquence of the President, dead, has been felt in behalf of justice and right and his country, as the eloquence of the President alive, never could have been felt. He has touched and moved the heart of the Nation, and stamped his views on that heart. To-day, the governmental views of Mr. Lincoln are esteemed no less than the views of Washington, and will be most sacredly carried out, for which the conspirators against his life may take the credit. "They thought evil against him, but God meant it unto good." They designed to defeat the policy of the President, but God meant to establish it beyond a peradventure.

4. We think it is clear, also, *that the assassination has revealed the strength of our Government to ourselves, and to the monarchies of the old world.* The impression did prevail at the breaking out of the war, as has already been intimated, that in what is known as the Federal or Central Government, there was very little strength. It was regarded as a ship that would answer very well for a smooth sea, fanned by gentle zephyrs, but good for nothing on a sea lashed into fury by angry winds. The leaders of the rebellion were of this impression, and so were those who sympathized with

them beyond the sea. They honestly believed that on the inauguration of a civil war among us, we would go to pieces. There were loyal men also, who had their fears on the subject. The progress of the war has removed effectually this delusion. It has opened our eyes and the eyes of the world on this subject. It has shown the character of the timber in our ship. It has made it clear that there is power in the Federal Government—strength in our union. No other people ever prosecuted such a war as we have just passed through and came out of it as slightly exhausted as this nation appears to be. After a conflict of four years, in which we have been expending millions daily, and in which hundreds of thousands have fallen, we are apparently stronger than when the war commenced. But the assassination of the Chief Magistrate of the Nation was a new trial of our strength or rather a trial in a new direction. The Central Government was beheaded, and must not the body die? was there power in this body after decapitation, to readjust itself and supply a new head? and the functions of the organism still go on as though nothing had occurred? These questions are answered by the peaceful flow of the Nation's life to-day—and should the new President and all the Heads of the Departments be assassinated to-morrow, their places would be supplied, and the functions of the government go on without interruption. The life of the nation—I mean our nation—is not in those who administer the government, however it may be with the governments of the old world: it is in the hearts of the loyal millions, who find protection under the banner of Stars and Stripes. The heart of our beloved President has ceased to beat, but the heart of the Nation beats on, and its strong pulsations are felt to the extremities of the great organism. If the life of the French Nation flows through the heart of Napoleon, and the life of all the nations of Europe through their monarchs and aristocrats, the life of our nation did not flow through the heart of Mr. Lincoln and those associated with him in office. We mourn the death of our President, but

his death has shown to us and to the monarchs of the old world, as perhaps no other event could have done, the recuperative, self-adjusting and readjusting power of our government.

5. Again, the assassination of the President, *by the sympathy it has called forth in our behalf in England, has tended to soften our feelings towards her, and may be the means of averting a war with that power.* We regard this as one of the most marked effects of this sad providence. England in all this struggle has treated us badly, and we feel it. We speak this not in anger, but in sorrow. There have indeed been noble exceptions. There are Englishmen who have ably and wisely defended our cause, and who have not faltered in their work in our darkest days. We feel our indebtedness to them, and love to think of them. But generally it is true, that the government, the press, the churches, and the people have from the commencement to the close of the struggle given their sympathy and aid to our enemies. This we believe is the testimony of our firmest friends in Britain. The government, before it could have known of the blockade of our Southern ports, acknowledged the Confederates as belligerents, and thus made them legalized pirates on the high seas. Semmes, of the Alabama, who deserves hanging as much as any pirate ever did, was among the first to surrender to Gen. Sherman. Why was he not arrested and treated as a pirate? Because he acted for belligerents with letters of marque. When we captured Mason and Slidell in an informal way, the agents of the insurgents on their way to Europe to make mischief, our peculiar circumstances were not regarded for a moment, and at once the tocsin of war was sounded, and we were given to understand that we must give up those mischievous rebels or "fight England." We wisely gave them up, under the impression that one war at a time is enough. England as a government has not done all for the Confederacy that she could have done, but she has done all she dared to do

The churches too, with rare exceptions, have sympathized with the government and have occupied the same position, although they knew that our struggle was against slavery, which sought supremacy in our land: an institution for which they have ever expressed the greatest abhorrence. The leading journals, political and religious, have persistently magnified every success of our enemies, and attempted to belittle every victory of our armies, and in every possible way have endeavored to embarrass our government. And the capitalists of England have given their money freely to sustain the cause of treason, and to keep up the credit of a band of traitors and thieves, while they have done all in their power to destroy our credit, and they have "for their pains" Confederate Bonds that are worth just what they can get for them, and a lien on a large amount of cotton that has been burned up or fallen into our hands.

All this has tended to excite in us ugly feelings, and to suggest retaliation, and it will be a long time before we can feel towards the mother country as we have done. The "cut" has been too unkind to be forgotten, while it may be forgiven. Like rust on highly polished cutlery it will leave a stain after the rust is rubbed off. We had reason to expect better things from that quarter. If the people of Britain have any love for us they have been exceedingly unfortunate in their mode of exhibiting it; if they would not have rejoiced to see our government destroyed their actions belie them. But a great nation like ours can afford to be generous, and to overlook even malignant meanness. It would not add to our dignity or honor to go to war with England. It is not best that we should. There was danger that we would drift into such a war when our own was over, and I know not that the danger is fully past; but the spirit her people have manifested in view of our affliction, has warmed, in a measure, our hearts towards them, and made us feel that after all, there may be less of hostility to our institutions, in that cradle of our nation, than we had reason to suppose. The sympathy of England with

the rebellion, we have never doubted, had its origin in aristocracy and dollars and cents, but there is no money in it now and not much aristocracy, and the masses of the people, when they come to understand the nature of our struggle, will not only mourn with us for the death of our President, they will heartily rejoice with us in the suppression of the rebellion.

The venerable Dr. Duff, of Scotland, in a letter to George Stuart, Esq., of Philadelphia, occasioned by the death of Mr. Lincoln, says, in speaking of the apparent want of sympathy in the British Isles with us in our great struggle—"You may depend upon it, that if there was less manifestation of sympathy than might be expected or desired, this arose wholly from misapprehension or ignorance of the principles involved and the real ends and objects contemplated in the mighty warfare, and you may be very sure that just in proportion as these come to be better understood and appreciated the tide of sympathy will continue to rise higher and higher, wider and wider, stronger and stronger, till the last shred of avowed antipathy, or even neutrality, shall be resistlessly borne away by it." Utterances of this kind, from such a quarter, are exceedingly gratifying, and they are acting as a lightning rod in carrying off quietly the indignation of our people, and thus averting war.

6. Another effect of the assassination, occurring as it did in the midst of our rejoicing over victories achieved by our armies, *was to humble us in a direction that we needed humbling, and to turn our thoughts more directly to Him who "giveth the victory."* Our victories had been long waited for, and they were decisive of the contest. The Gibraltar of the Rebellion had been taken, and the leading general of the rebel army, the Napoleon of the insurgents, had surrendered with his whole army. If the war was not entirely over, we were confident we could see the end, and that the noble defenders of our country would soon

“come marching home.” Arrangements were made in all our principal cities for such demonstrations of joy as had never been witnessed in our land before. It is right and proper to rejoice, but in rejoicing, such as filled our hearts, there was danger that we would forget God, and He saw that it was best to turn our rejoicing into mourning, and our feet from places of dissipation to his sanctuary. And He did it effectually. Never were our churches more crowded with solemn worshippers than on the day the body of the dead President was carried from the White House to the Capitol. We felt then, as we had never felt before, that the hand of God was on us. Our mourning may not have been as pleasant to us as rejoicing, but it was better for us. God saw it to be so then, and we can see it now. National mourning is better than national feasting, as a nation’s soul is better than a nation’s soil. Lincoln’s death was worth more to the country than his life, or God would have spared him. The humblest soldier that has fallen on the field of carnage, battling for the right, has not died in vain. The ashes of the martyrs was the seed of the Church, and the tree of civil liberty will grow more vigorously for the *blood* and *tears* of patriots that have been poured around it. As the rejoicing of Israel over brilliant victories was turned into mourning by the king’s sorrow for Absalom, so our rejoicing has been turned into mourning; but our call to mourn has been, we have reason to believe, a blessing in disguise.

7. There was a feeling on the part of many even in the North, at an early stage of the war, that the rebels were brave and generous, but “erring brethren,” and that they were to be pitied, as the Poles or the Italians, who have struggled in vain for liberty; but a marked effect of the assassination has been *to take from the rebellion every claim it may have had on the sympathy of noble-minded, honorable men, and to brand it with the mark of Cain*. It has taken from the rebellion all poetry and sentiment, all the gorgeous

coloring in which its advocates have presented it, and exhibited it, in all its deformity, a loathsome thing, a stench in the nostrils of all loyal and right-thinking men. No man can now have his name connected with the slaveholders' rebellion, and not bear the brand of an assassin. Lincoln was a victim to the foul spirit of treason, and all who have encouraged that spirit have helped to murder him, and they cannot but feel it. The rebellion and the assassination are inseparably linked together. They are mother and child. The parent may disown her child, as there is a disposition to do, but the child will cling to the parent, as the shirt of Nessus to Hercules. The blood of the President is on the skirts of every traitor in the land, and cannot be washed out. *It is the kind of blood that will not wash out.* The assassination of Mr. Lincoln is the deepest curse with which the cause of the Confederates could have been visited. It has made it infamous, as nothing else could have done. Those who perpetrated the bloody deed meant it for evil, but God designed it for good. Grant and Sherman and Sheridan, with their companions in arms, crushed the rebellion, but the assassins of the President gave to it an immortality of infamy from which the most inveterate rebel shrinks appalled.

Once more: *The assassination of the President has had the effect of teaching us in an impressive way that the Lord God omnipotent reigneth, and that He is not dependent on any man for the carrying out of his purposes.* These he can and will bring to pass with our co-operation, or by means of our opposition. He makes the wrath of man to praise Him. President Lincoln was a truly great man. His name is

"One of the few, the immortal names
That were not born to die."

The people trusted in him, and, so far as we could see, he was needed. But God can do without him. The success of the cause he represented, and he so ably defended, did not depend on him. When Paul, the earnest and eminent

Apostle of the Gentiles, was shut up in prison in Rome, the enemies of the truth apparently triumphed; but it was only in appearance. The word was not bound, could not be bound. Flesh and blood will burn, but truth will not. The Apostles, with one exception, died as martyrs. Nero lighted his pleasure-grounds with the burning bodies of Christians, but their doctrines continued to spread and "to turn the world upside down." God does, in a most marked manner, overrule the death of his servants for the furtherance of his glorious purposes. When the enemies of Jesus had crucified him, they felt that their work was done, their triumph complete; as did the assassin of the President when in an exulting tone he exclaimed, after the deed was done: "*Sic semper tyrannis!*" and added: "The South is avenged!" The apparent victories of these enemies of the truth were their most crushing defeats.

But, it is asked: "Would you compare the assassin of the President with the crucifiers of Jesus?" Did not Booth claim that he murdered Lincoln because he was a *tyrant*, for the public good? Yes; he did. And did not those who put to death Jesus of Nazareth claim that they did it because he was a *blasphemer*? They did it, if we are to receive their statements as true, from pure benevolence. It was not safe that such a man should live. This was their plea. And when did any wicked man ever fail to claim, as a cover for his wickedness, that he was actuated by benevolent motives? It has been made by every traitor to justice and truth, from the Prince of Darkness, who was hurled from his seat in heaven to a dungeon in hell, to the prince of Confederate traitors, who has exchanged a Presidential mansion for the cell of a traitor and an assassin.

The men who have betrayed the Government have been its trusted ones; they have had committed to their care for many years the sword and the purse. They commenced their work of destruction by stealing, as Judas did his, and they followed it up by making war on the Government, starving our soldiers in their prisons, massacring them in

their forts, blowing up our ships, burning our cities, and spreading pestilence through the North; and to crown their work, they assassinated the President. They meant it for evil and for evil only; but God designed it and has overruled it for good. The success of Christianity did not, as I have said, depend on the lives of the apostles. They were put to death, but Christianity is still a mighty power in the world. Civil liberty in our land did not depend on Abraham Lincoln; he is dead, but the cause he advocated, and for which he died, still lives, and will live. It depends on the life of no man. It can no more be destroyed than the fire on our hearth stones. You may put it out, but it will burn again. It is indestructible; and the great principles of civil liberty, found among all people, are as indestructible. Our altars were lighted from England and France and Holland, and the coals from which they were lighted are still alive, notwithstanding all the efforts of the Stuarts, the Phillips, and Bourbons to extinguish them. The blood of the martyrs may flow in a stream ever so deep and broad, the cause of truth and righteousness is safe, for God takes care of it. The sons of Jacob may sell their brother into slavery, but his God can bring him to honor and power. The exiled Israelites may be thrown into the burning furnace in Babylon, but they will come out of it without the smell of fire on their garments. The enemies of our country have assassinated our President, but not the cause he represented.

Of the rebellion generally allow me to say: Those who inaugurated it have very much to answer for. They did not anticipate such a war as has scourged our land. They have received much more than they "bargained for." One of the leaders said, on the steps of the State House at Savannah, before the commencement of actual hostilities, by way of quieting all fears on the part of those who apprehended a serious conflict, "that he would drink all the blood that would be shed in a war growing out of secession." They did not believe that the people of the

North would fight. They construed our disposition to conciliate and compromise into cowardice; and under this impression inaugurated one of the most unnatural and destructive wars in the history of the world. We doubt not but that it will be overruled for good, but that fact does not detract from the guilt of the traitors, any more than the fact that Judas' treason was overruled for good, detracted from his guilt. They meant it for evil, and to a certain extent they accomplished their purpose. They have sacrificed hundreds of thousands of our strong young men, and made as many homes desolate; and they have caused us to incur a debt of thousands of millions of dollars. Still, the material prosperity of the North has not been seriously effected, nor our peace disturbed. But to the South the war has been utter desolation. Their young men have fallen in battle; their substance is wasted; and their princes are beggars. A large proportion of the people in the vicinity of Richmond and Charleston—those hotbeds of secession and treason—are to-day pensioners on the bounty of the Government they moved heaven and earth to destroy. There are very many of these deluded people who must absolutely starve during the coming winter unless they are provided for by the North. And as Joseph did not refuse his brethren corn because of their treatment of him, I trust we shall not refuse our brethren bread. Their retribution is terrible, overwhelming, absolutely annihilating, to all their cherished hopes. Almost every cause for which men have contended earnestly has had some redeeming features. This rebellion has none—absolutely none; and in its defeat there is every element of humiliation of which we can conceive. If the rebels can find any consolation in the thought that they have sacrificed every thing to rivet more firmly the chains of slavery on the millions of Africa's sons, on whose labor they have fattened, and not only failed, but in the effort broke off those galling chains forever, they may find comfort in their defeat; it is the only oasis in their desert. They are con-

quered, impoverished, friendless, and dependent on their conquerors; and they stand before the world charged with theft, treason, cruelty, falsehood, and murder. If Cain had reason to say, when cursed by his Maker and sent forth as a vagabond and a fugitive in the earth, "my punishment is greater than I can bear," the defeated, fleeing, starving, begging, and imprisoned traitors of the South might, with propriety, adopt the same language.

While we have reason to mourn before God to-day under His heavy hand, we surely have reason to render thanks to Him that the occasion of our sorrow has effected so much for us. It has united us as a people, more firmly; it has revealed to us more fully, the designs of the leaders of the rebellion; it has secured the carrying out of the President's views on the subject of emancipation; it has called forth expressions of sympathy from the mother country that have softened our feelings towards her; it has turned our rejoicing into mourning that has been good for us; it has so covered the rebellion with infamy that men of noble impulses all over the world shrink from it as from a putrid carcass the exhalations of which are death, and it has taught us to "cease from man whose breath is in his nostrils," and to trust more implicitly in Jehovah. He has indeed, turned our victory into mourning; our light into darkness, but "He giveth songs in the night," by darkness he brings out the stars and makes the heavens glorious; and brighter, far brighter, for our darkness will henceforth shine the stars and stripes in the banner that *now* waves "o'er the land of the *free* and the home of the *brave*."

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