

"The Abolitionist Riot at Harper's Ferry - Sewardism at the South," Memphis (TN)  
*Daily Appeal*, November 2, 1859

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**The Abolitionist Riot at Harper's Ferry--Sewardism at the South.**

[From the New York Daily News.]

The pernicious seed sown at Rochester has borne its first poisonous fruit. Sewardism has had its bloody and repulsive triumph at Harper's Ferry. The "irrepressible conflict" there and then suddenly burst its bonds, and the whole theory stands now plainly before us in its odious practice. Was it for this, then, that the organs of Sewardism in this city and State bade us be less distrustful of their Magna Apollo? Was it for this, then, that even the respectable and peace-preaching *Tribune* assured us that Seward's detestable conflict doctrines were monstrously misrepresented? Was it merely to deceive, to lull us into unsuspecting, just on the eve of the full development of a terrible conspiracy, that all the assurances of our Republican cotemporaries were forced into our ears? It is strange, but it is startlingly true, that in the very hour in which this rebellious conflict was ripened to its explosion, the Republican journals all over the country were writing up the Seward theories as having been distorted to the most unfair extent. As a replying and sweepingly refuting commentary on all this, we have the woeeful tidings from Harper's Ferry, which are fully detailed in this day's paper.

When the astounding news first reached us we were disposed to doubt that the slaves and Abolitionists had taken so open and desperate a stand as that which has cast death and misery on a Virginia town and dismay throughout the Union. We had charity enough to assume that some latent cause might exist which may possibly relieve the Abolitionist faction of the curse which had so fallen with such a calamity-spreading effect. Much as we loathed the fiendish doctrines of Seward and his Black-Republican myrmidons, we had no pressing apprehensions that they would immediately find a beginning. But our charity and our hopes were destined to be too rudely and promptly shocked. And the whole population of this Union has now to deplore the first disastrous consequences of the demoniacal disunion theories propounded by Seward a short time ago at Rochester, and indorsed by the Abolitionist or Black-Republican faction here and in England.

The reader is by this time, we presume, thoroughly versed in the sad history of the Harper's Ferry insurrection. We have given the full details of the strife up to the latest dates, and we ask the reader—as a matter of justice to the Black-Republicans, and as a matter of right to our own stern and irrestrainable denunciations—ostly the whole history of this melancholy affair from the first moment of the outbreak until the heavy hand of provoked federal authority fell on and crushed it. It will at once be seen that they who were the hired agents of Black-Republican violence in Kansas had been transferred from that post, and employed to carry out more nearly to the heart of the slave States the conflicts which they waged on the borders. There is not left the slightest room to question the association of this rebellion with the principles and partisans of William H. Seward. The chief fanatic who has fallen at the fiendish work has avowed his intention with a confidence which seemed to imply that he expected aid from sources which at the last failed him. The conspiracy was evidently widespread. It had its connecting links from the headquarters of Sewardism in this city to the distant ramifications of the border-riot managers. It had its association as surely in the center of London as under the Blue Ridge, and on the banks of the Potomac which its developments have befouled Seward in his teachings was its head, and Brown its front, on the exciting occasion which calls our attention to it at the present time. Well may the Democratic Republican committee at Syracuse have put it on record that "we abhor the incendiary doctrines of William H. Seward." Their incendiary character has at the very starting made a most appalling manifestation.

—one of the darkest of disunion schemes, as such spiracies. So far had the inception of the disunion plot gone that the Sewardite agent had been designated and dubbed general-in-chief of an army raised by a provisional government, which intended, in due season, to usurp the supreme rule of these States. Some of the unfortunate rebel wretches slain in this Black-Republican conflict had in their possession regularly drawn-up papers distributing army commissions freely, and attesting fully that the

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leaders in the insurrection were bent upon subverting the existing order of things, and introducing at once the Sewardite regime of disunion and separation in its foulest signification. There were, of course, found slaves ready to abet the plan so far as it was deemed advisable to impart it. There were, of course, white scoundrels ready to join in the insurrection for the purposes of Seward or of any one else whose views might be antagonistic. But the direct agents of the "irrepressible conflict" doctrines were sincere. They aimed at "freeing the slaves"—at promoting a stampede—at establishing Seward's conflict principle—at plundering the Southern planters for the policy of the Northern pirates—of rioting for some blacks that they might involve in bloodshed and pauperize some whites.

But it is done. The conflict on the part of the disunionists has had a bloody and a brutal, and so far an appropriate beginning. The aspirations of the bloated Abolitionists have had a sanguinary gratification. The inaugural of the Republican struggle has clotted itself in gore. The Sewardite conflict action, thus steeped in the life-blood of United States troops—stained with the murder of peaceful citizens—loaded with the guilt of a most wicked rebellion—cursed by the good of the land, which its first campaign step has disgraced—thus may it now go forth to meet the execration of all who truly love the abiding liberties of their country.

No denial, no explanation, no palliation of the hellish "irrepressible conflict" doctrine is any longer tolerable—come from what source it may. The misery we to-day mourn is a too appalling answer to all the pleadings which have come or can possibly emanate from the Sewardite faction, in order to define the harmlessness of the horrible teachings which cling to the Rochester manifesto. It is done. The mask is thrown off. Whether we owe it to the indiscretion or premature action of the too zealous agents of the movement, matters not. What we maintained as sure to be the effect of the conflict doctrine has assumed its most irrepressible development, and burst into a most deplorable but inevitable calamity. With the startling history of this terrible case fully before them—with the sad lessons ringing in their ears—will not the Democracy banish the least tendency to inactivity—will they not "as one man" resolutely and everywhere combine to put a firm foot on the monstrous views, and crush to insignificance the conflict party to whom we owe this desolating outrage? Democrats, to your posts in time! Resolve, be ready, and you are able to strangle the political viper which has been spreading the death-slime of its "irrepressible conflict" panic around Harper's Ferry—the same viper which now confronts you in this State! Unite, and trample it in the dust!

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