

**Helper's Autobiography—His Pamphlet, and the Uses that Are Made of it by the Republican Party.**

in another part of to-day's paper will be found a letter from the notorious Helper, the substance of which appears to be that he commenced his business career by "misusing," that is, stealing, "without the knowledge of any human being besides himself, three hundred dollars of Mr. Brown's," his employer's "money." The palliating circumstance, in his own mind, was that he "kept a conscientiously accurate account of the same!" At a later period, Mr. Brown was made aware of the theft, and refrained from sending his dishonest clerk to the penitentiary; but he committed the offence, which Mr. Helper denounces as a most shameful breach of confidence, of "divulging the whole affair." Somewhere in California, probably at about election time, the purloining employé says that he became honest, and paid back to Mr. Brown the amount he had robbed him of. "Every assertion," he concludes his letter, "and insinuation that has been made heretofore, or may be made hereafter, no matter by what authority, nor by whom circulated, in any manner or degree conflicting with what I have said above, is founded in a spirit of sheer falsehood and malignity, and can never in either this world or in the next, be substantiated or established."

It is not altogether surprising that "this unambiguous declaration of facts," as Helper calls them, should be perfectly pleasant and satisfactory to his black republican admirers, endorsing as they do such passages of his book as, "Thieves are, as a general rule, less amenable to the moral law than slaveholders;" and, again, "All pro-slavery slaveholders deserve to be at once reduced to a parallel with the basest criminals that lie fettered within the cells of our public prisons." The bloody black republican journals of the North, and the following sixty-eight members of Congress who authorized the use of their names, recommending the "Impending Crisis," had good reason to consider Helper peculiarly adapted to be their pioneer in the approaching Presidential contest. In fact, Messrs.

Schuyler Colfax,	Cydr. B. Tompkins,	Valent' B. Horton,
Anson Burlingame,	John Covode,	Freeman H. Morse,
Uwien Lovejoy,	Carl. C. Washburn,	David Kilgore,
Amos P. Grauger,	Sam'l G. Andrews,	Wm. Stewart,
Edwin B. Morgan,	Abraham B. Olin,	Samuel R. Curtis,
Galusha A. Grow,	Seney Dean,	John M. Wood,
Joshua R. Giddings,	Nath'l B. Durfee,	John M. Parker,
Edward Wale,	Emory B. Pottle,	Stephen C. Foster,
Calvin C. Chaffee,	Do Witt C. Leach,	Chas. B. Gilman,
William H. Kelsey,	John F. Potter,	Chas. B. Hoard,
Wm. A. Howard,	T. Davis (Mass.)	John Thompson,
Henry Walden,	J. F. Fardsworth,	J. W. Sherman,
John Sherman,	C. L. Knapp,	Wm. D. Brayton,
Geo. W. Palmer,	R. E. Feuton,	James Buffington,
Dan'l W. Gooch,	Philemon Bliss,	O. D. Matteson,
Henry L. Dawes,	Macon W. Huggan,	Richard Mott,
Justin S. Morrill,	Charles G. Carter,	Geo. R. Robbins,
I. Washburne, Jr.,	T. Davis (Iowa),	Ezekiel P. Walton,
J. A. Bingham,	James Pike,	James Wilson,
Wm. Kellogg,	Homor E. Royce,	S. A. Purciance,
E. B. Washburne,	Isaiah D. Clawson,	Francis E. Spinner,
Benj. Stanton,	A. S. Murray,	Silas M. Burroughs,
Edward Doad,	Robert B. Hall,	

all profess to "feel confident," as is stated on the cover, that "were every citizen in possession of the facts embodied in the Compendium, a republican triumph in 1860 would be morally certain." Between forty and fifty of these gentlemen retain seats, at the present hour, in the House of Representatives; one of them is the unanimous choice of the whole republican party for Speaker; and Helper's book is their programme for the coming campaign.

Helper informs us that the first edition of his "Impending Crisis of the South" appeared about June, 1857. The North was not, however, fully ripe, at that time, for taking it up as a black republican profession of faith. Even the bloody organs of republicanism in the press were comparatively silent concerning it. Free soil negrophilia had not yet worked itself up to the pitch of daring to chuckle openly over the assertion that "the negroes would be delighted to cut their masters' throats," and denouncing slaveowners as "robbers, ruffians, thieves and murderers," "more criminal than common murderers." Besides, the Kansas outrage humbug was not quite exhausted, and Le-compton was beginning to bud into a most promising clap-trap, out of which Seward, the *Tribune* and their incendiary auxiliaries might grind political capital. So 1857 passed away without much apparent attention having been excited by the Compendium. Neither was it heard of in 1858 as a party text book, until about the time of the fall elections, and after its atrocious principles had been broadly outlined in Senator Seward's Rochester speech of that year. In 1859, however, all other appliances of the republicans had become threadbare, and the fictions of previous years exploded,

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<https://stampedes.dickinson.edu/document/new-york-ny-herald-helpers-autobiography-his-pamphlet-january-13-1860>

and then it was that the sixty-eight Representative Honorables explicitly, and a multitude more of Honorables and non-Honorables implicitly, determined to re-usher it into the world, as the great campaign masterpiece for the Presidential election of 1860. It was circulated by tens of thousands, with a "feeling of moral certainty," on the part of Governor Morgan, Thurlow Weed, Horace Greeley, and other Sewardite leaders, who contributed money to circulate it, and on the part of the members of Congress who endorsed it, that it would secure, as they expressed it, a republican triumph in the coming year.

Had Brown's invasion of Harper's Ferry been followed, as abolitionists anticipated, by a stampede of several thousand slaves from Virginia and Maryland, civil war, and the "rape, fire and slaughters" which Gerrit Smith foretold, Helper's book would have been heralded to the country as prophetic. It failed, however, ignominiously. The murderer and horse thief, with his associate ruffians, suffered the penalty of their crimes, in accordance with the laws of the State which they violated. As a consequence, the leaders of the black republican party, especially in the critical position of things at Washington, have been driven to their usual stronghold of subterfuge and deceit. They shroud themselves with a silent disavowal of the Compendium, and, without committing themselves by condemning it openly, assume the airs of injured innocence when charged with advocacy of its tenets. Doolittle, in the Senate, is a specimen of this class of temporizers. Seward, perhaps, will endeavor to reef his sails in like manner, until the storm blows over. It remains none the less true that, while leaders traffic in such wise with conscience, their followers adhere to the plan originally laid down, and are sowing the treason contained in the "Impending Crisis" broadcast over the whole land.

The publisher of Helper's work, in this city, is a man named Burdick. He supplies the trade, and the demand is so great for the book that nearly all of the booksellers in New York feel compelled to have copies of it. The orders from the Eastern and Western States are immense. Local republican leaders stimulate their followers to purchase it, and the most strenuous efforts are used to place it in the

hands of every one who will be entitled to a vote at the next election. Anthon, at No. 10 Wall street, distributes it as a professional abolitionist, to all applicants, and is continually obliged to renew his stock. The Tribune people sell it from the counter, and, if they cannot get rid of it in any other way, are said to let it go at half price, or even gratis where it will tell unusually well. The greatest efforts are being made to circulate it extensively in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, New Jersey and Wisconsin, in order to gain, if possible, the doubtful States. It is part of the scheme, thoroughly understood, that while the circulation of this document is kept up with unremitting vigor, the republican members of Congress shall be utterly silent. Before the time of the Presidential election the Central States will be flooded with copies of this infamous book. Agents are also at work in nearly all of the populous neighborhoods of the South, and every device is resorted to in order to evade the vigilance of the justly incensed masses of the Southern States.

Helper's book, in a word, is the mainstay and dependence of the bloody black republican press and the leaders of the "irrepressible conflict" aggressors of the North, in the national contest which is impending. Yet the device is resorted to by the official heads of the party, in order to elect Seward, or some one of like kidney, to the Presidency, of seemingly repudiating it, while the republican committee, under their directions, emulate the Bible Society itself in multiplying its numbers. The followers of Helper are worthy, in their political manœuvres, of the antecedents of that individual himself.

Slave Stampedes on the Southern Borderlands