

**THADDEUS STEVENS' LATE SPEECH.**

Without following Mr. Stevens in his meanderings through marsh, swamp, fen, bog and slough of political despond, let it suffice to approach the threshold of this quagmire of *abolition* heresies.

Mr. Stevens holds that the eleven slave States recently in rebellion against the Constitutional Government *did secede*; that they totally severed all political connexion with the parent government; that they maintained an *independent* government of their own for four years; that they have been conquered as *foreign States* and alien enemies; that their territory shall be held as the *common territory* of the federal government; that said territory shall be sold to pay the national debt; and that the Southern aristocracy shall be *crushed and exterminated*. This is the brief summing up of Mr. Stevens' political *abolition creed*.

Let us now compare this heresy with the Southern dogma of secession: The Southern leaders claimed the *Constitutional right of a State to secede from the Federal Union*; that the federal government possessed no constitutional power to "coerce" a State to remain in the Union; and that by the acts of secession and confederation they were *de facto a sovereign and independent State*. This heresy was combatted by the Executive and Federal authorities as *treasonable in design and revolutionary in practice*; that *no State could secede from that "more perfect Union;"* that States could be "coerced" to remain in the Union; and upon this basis the issue was joined and has been decided. And now what do we see? Why, we find Mr. Thaddeus Stevens planting himself on the *secession platform!* claiming that it is now the duty and the *right of Congress to confirm this most treasonable of all rank treason—this dogma of secession*, and ratify by legislative enactment the independent sovereignty of the Southern Confederacy based upon slavery!

This shows that the two extremes North and South do stand upon the same political platform, and that *abolitionism and secessionism* are alike *treasonable to Constitutional liberty*, that they both seek a *military despotism, "a government of a single idea,"* one in the name of *slavery* and the other in the name of the *abolition of slavery*, and now that the latter is accomplished, and the smoke and dust of battle is cleared away, they stand forth in bold relief, joined hand in hand, and are covered all over with the fraternal blood of brothers of the same family.

Let us carry this idea a little further and ascertain, if possible, the end to which this *abolition heresy* will conduct us. If the slave States *did secede*—did absolutely sever all political connexion with the Federal Union—did create and establish an independent State and maintain it for four years, and this fact shall now be *confirmed* by solemn act of the national Legislature, then, of course, other States *may secede*, and they, too, will have to be "coerced" by military power to remain in the Union, and so on until every State shall be held by "coercive" military power, when we shall have accomplished that which *abolition traitors North and secession traitors South* do most desire—a military despotism—"a government of a single idea." If this conclusion is not a fair and legitimate deduction from the premises of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, Wendell Phillips, Charles Sumner, Henry Wilson, and other abolitionists North, and of the secessionists South, then we are not a judge of cause and effect; and if it be legitimate, then we appeal to you, the people, to come to the rescue and defend our sacred Constitution; defend our "more perfect Union;" defend our free institutions; defend our liberal toleration of religion; defend our homes, our altars, and our fires from the ruthless hands of conspiring demagogues and abolition traitors; defend the purity of the ballot box; defend the President in his constitutional policy of restoration and re-Union; and God will bless and save our country from the ravages of another civil war.