

can trace the stream of human history from its upper fountains down to this day, and you may follow it until it empties into the vast ocean of eternity; but never will you find this principle varied, that wherever wrong is perpetrated there retribution is sure to follow. Look at the history of slavery in all times. Take it among the Oriental nations, among the Hebrews, the Greeks, the Romans, wherever it has been. I tell gentlemen, if they choose to turn historical students, they will find that never a nation cherished the institution of slavery that did not have to give it up, or come to ruin. Some gentlemen have read quotations here going to show how horribly slaves were treated in the Roman empire; they were put in caves, made to work in chain gangs, and this, and that, and the other. They can find other instances of worse treatment. Slavery among the Chians was worse; that among the Spartans was worse. But wherever it ever existed, it went out in national calamity and blood. Everywhere, where humanity was crushed into the dust, in time came up some Drimacos, some Eunus, some Spartacus, who demanded and had in blood the price of his fellows' bondage and degradation. That is history.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. May I ask the gentleman what was the cause of the downfall of the Roman empire?

Mr. SANDS. Upon this very question of slavery.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. I beg your pardon; that is a mistake.

Mr. SANDS. I beg your pardon. Slavery was the beginning of the civil wars. Slavery had so increased in the Roman empire, that the slaveholders had absorbed all the land.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. I do not so read it.

Mr. SANDS. These are the facts of history, which gentlemen can go to the books and learn. I am glad the gentleman has asked the question. Slavery had increased in the Roman empire until there were, as some gentlemen have said here, 80,000,000 of slaves. The result was that the land had all been absorbed by a few slaveholders. The mudsills of Rome were reduced to a degree of degradation, only paralleled perhaps by the mudsill of South Carolina to-day. Then, and on the question of dividing up the lands of the Empire, so as to destroy slavery, arose the civil wars which lasted so long, and in the end left the Romans a prey to the barbarians that overran them.

I wish I had time to treat this subject as it deserves. I say that history teaches this one lesson, that wherever the institution of slavery fastened upon a nation it never let go its hold until the nation was tottering in to ruin from it. I mean nothing offensive, but I tell you that the class of slaveholders, as history proves, hold on to their peculiar institution, to use one of their refined and

delicate expressions, "like grim death on to a dead nigger." They hold on, and hold on, and—over they go into the maelstrom of ruin.

Now, if these very scriptural gentlemen want an instance in point, I will give them one from the Bible, because that is good authority on this subject with them. In the inscrutable providence of God, the Hebrews had been reduced to slavery in Egypt, and there are some statistical facts connected with that matter, which gentlemen might take into consideration, in regard to the increase of slaves. They have always increased. Why that old heathen, Pharaoh, found that these Hebrew slaves, even though he treated them so tyrannically, increased so rapidly that he published an edict commanding the destruction of all the male babes of the race. He had not studied Malthus, had he? Still they went on increasing and increasing.

Now, look at Pharaoh's case. I will tell you how Egypt was emancipated. Study the parallel. There arose a great abolitionist of the name of Moses. You have all heard of him. He was one of those whom Pharaoh doomed to destruction. Now, Moses escaped, and was more favored than slaves under your system are. Why, sir, history blushes at this fact, that slavery in America is what slavery never was before in any part of the earth; what it never was even in Algiers, never anywhere else. You have the testimony of John Wesley to this fact; of General Eaton, who, during the presidency of General Jackson, was United States consul at Algiers. The books are full of these facts.

Now, think of the temptations that Moses had not to be an abolitionist. He could have been the son of Pharaoh's daughter, for in many of those eastern countries it was the practice of slaveowners, especially if they had no children of their own, to adopt their slaves as their heirs. Moses could have been the son of Pharaoh's daughter, but he preferred to be an humble abolitionist. He went to Pharaoh and said: "Thus saith the Lord God, let my people go." But Pharaoh did not see it in that light, and said no. Then Moses told him what was coming, and there was one plague after another, of frogs, and locusts, and lice, and thick darkness that could be cut with a knife. Well, when Pharaoh felt the plague a little heavily, he would say to the Hebrews, "go." But as soon as they started, he would change his mind and bring them back again.

Last of all came that terrible night when in every house in the land, there was the cry of lamentation and weeping, because in each house there lay the first-born, a cold, stark corpse. And then Pharaoh said to the Hebrews: "Get you up out of the land, you and your wives and your little ones; take your cattle and everything else, and go."