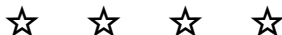


FACTS THE HISTORIANS LEAVE OUT

by
John S. Tilley, M.A.

Author of
Lincoln Takes Command
The Coming of the Glory

THE CONFEDERATE
REPRINT COMPANY



WWW.CONFEDERATEREPRINT.COM

Facts the Historians Leave Out
Enlarged Edition
by John S. Tilley

Originally Published in 1951
The Paragon Press
Montgomery, Alabama

Reprint edition, 2014

The Confederate Reprint Company
Post Office Box 2027
Toccoa, Georgia 30577
www.confederatereprint.com

Cover design by Greg Loren Durand
www.magnoliagraphicdesign.com

ISBN-13: 978-0692267844
ISBN-10: 0692267840

Preface

by Francis Norton Mason

John S. Tilley, historian and lawyer, of Alabama, is fearful that the use of a fallacious propaganda as history, may rob American youth of a valiant heritage. Therefore, from his more impressive studies in American political history he has extracted a booklet, *Facts the Historians Leave Out: A Youth's Confederate Primer*.

In the early days of our Republic, political issues, as functional as the fires on the hearth stones, were met directly with clear, though sometimes fierce, argument and action. With increasing population and stretching distances, American "individualism" waxed great, indulging that innate American tendency to vaunt superior virtue. The North accused the South of social arrogance. The South accused the North of moral arrogance. And propaganda became a broom in the hands of those who would clean a neighbor's house; which raised such a dust of resent-

ment that “controversy became exasperated into bloody conflict” — war between American States.

Mr. Tilley’s Primer endeavors to give the young student straight answers to three basic questions. Was slavery the cause of the War of the Sixties? Was Lincoln a Great Emancipator? And did the States have a right to secede? For it is Mr. Tilley’s conviction that without a true knowledge of these issues, there can be no amicable settlement of problems that distress the nation today. This catechism is not a good fit for very young youth, but the unquestionable facts exposed fall into sound, if not primary grade, answers.

Our national character is rooted in this conflict. Kept bloodless and honest, it sharpens national wit and effects the only actual balance of power. Mr. Tilley does patriotic service in his untiring efforts to pull truth out of a dangerous fog of obsolete propaganda.

Richmond, Virginia

I.

How Our Nation Was Born

Five great movements ushered in the birth of the nation.

1. The First Continental Congress, which sent to the English King our declaration of rights. Its President was Peyton Randolph.

2. The agitation for armed resistance. Its leader was Patrick Henry.

3. The Declaration of Independence. Its author was Thomas Jefferson.

4. The War of The Revolution. Our Commander-in-Chief was George Washington.

5. The adoption of the Constitution. Its “father” was James Madison.

Does it signify anything that Randolph, Henry, Jefferson, Washington, and Madison were all Southern men?

Some other contributions: Jefferson promoted

the Louisiana Purchase, nearly doubling the area of the United States. In a critical period, Andrew Jackson led our armies to victory at New Orleans. Polk guided our government during the War with Mexico and led to our securing about one million square miles of new Territory including Texas, New Mexico, and California. John Marshall was chiefly responsible for the early prestige of our Supreme Court.

Jefferson, Jackson, Polk, Marshall, all were Southerners.

Call the roll of our Presidents during the period between The War of the Revolution and the War Between the States. Four of the first five, seven of the first ten, ten of the first sixteen Presidents of the United States were sons of the South.

The brilliant Southern record came to a tragic end in 1861. Since that date, The South has been the nation's step-child.

II.

Was the War of the Sixties Fought Over the Issue of Slavery?

Did the North fight the war to free the slaves? That is a fair question. Maybe, you have come to believe that such a motive inspired the terrible struggle. But, was that the cause?

Of all the leaders of that period, who do you think best qualified to know the true answer? Would not it have been Abraham Lincoln?

And, what do we learn from him?

He had served in Congress with Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia. On December 22, 1860, just two days after South Carolina left the Union, he wrote to Mr. Stephens:

“Do the people of the South really entertain fears that a Republican administration would, directly or indirectly, interfere with their slaves, or with them about their slaves? If they do, I wish to assure you, as

once a friend, and still, I hope, not an enemy, that there is no cause for such fears.”

On the next fourth of March, he became President. Had he changed his mind? Just after he took the oath of office, he said in his inaugural address:

“I declare that I have no intention, directly or indirectly, to interfere with slavery in the States where it exists.”

Not only that. In 1862, when the war had been in progress for more than a year, Republican senators urged him to take action to free the slaves. He answered:

“Gentlemen, I can’t do it.... But I’ll tell you what I can do; I can resign in favor of Mr. Hamlin. Perhaps Mr. Hamlin could do it.”

There is the record. Was Mr. Lincoln, then, in favor of slavery? He was not. He believed it to be wrong and was opposed to allowing it to expand into new States; but, he thought he had no right to interfere with it in the States in which it *already existed*.

III.

Did the Southern Armies Fight to Preserve Slavery?

Robert E. Lee was the South's leading General. Not only had he freed the slaves under his control, but he had declared that slavery was "a moral and political evil." It was his view that "the best men in the South" opposed the system, and that they would welcome a sane movement to be rid of it. He was convinced that, in time, "the mild and melting influence of Christianity," rather than war, would solve the problem.

Stonewall Jackson agreed with Lee's view. He wished to see the shackles struck from every slave.

So, clearly, these great leaders of the Confederates were not fighting to retain a system which they hated.

What of the soldiers who marched behind Lee and Jackson? Bear in mind that only one in fifteen of

Southern whites ever owned a slave. All in all, there were fewer than 350,000 Southern slaveowners.

But there were some 600,000 soldiers in the Confederate armies. So, if all the slave-owners were in uniform — and, certainly, they were not — this still leaves several hundred thousand soldiers with no personal interest in slavery.

What were these non-slaveholders fighting for?

You have read of John Brown who defied the law, attacked and occupied the armory at Harper's Ferry. He was captured by United States Army forces led by a Virginia Colonel by the name of Robert E. Lee. His execution took place in Virginia, a State presided over by Governor Henry A. Wise. It may interest you to learn that, not only the Virginia Colonel and the Virginia Governor, but a majority of the people of Virginia were then sincerely opposed to slavery.

Southern opposition to slavery was not something new. Daniel Webster once declared that the leading spirits of the South regarded it as “an evil, a blight, a scourge, and a curse.” He might have called the roll, a roll including such names as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Patrick Henry, John Randolph, and George Mason.

IV. Who Imported the Slaves From Africa?

Of course, slavery was an ugly blot on American history. And, you know that many Southerners owned slaves; so, our section deserves its share of the blame.

But, how did the slaves get here? That's a question which, even though your histories are strangely silent, you would like to have answered.

British and Dutch vessels engaged in the slave trade, and by slave trade is meant bringing them over from Africa. But, there were also American ships in the ugly business; and, though the historians have carefully steered clear of the fact, practically every one of them was owned and operated by Northerners.

The Puritans of Massachusetts not only captured their Pequot Indian neighbors and sold them in-

to slavery in the West Indies, they also carried on a large trade in Negroes imported from over seas. Just to give you an idea, between 1755 and 1766, the importers landed on Massachusetts shores no fewer than 23,000 African captives.

In 1787, Rhode Island held first place in the traffic. Later, New York City forged to the front in the trade. Philadelphia soon found the slave business attractive. The traders could buy a slave in Africa for a few gallons of rum and sell him in this country at a fantastic profit. So, it is no mystery how they made fabulous fortunes.

It was made unlawful to import slaves after the year 1808. Did this put a stop to the traffic?

If it did, why did Congress in 1820 brand the slave trade as “piracy”? The answer is that Northern smugglers were bringing in each year some 40,000 Africans.

And why, in 1860, did President Buchanan boast that “since the date of my last annual message, not a single slave has been imported into the United States in violation of the law”?

And why, in 1861, long after the outbreak of war and fifty-three years after the trade had been outlawed, did President Lincoln write to Congress that “five vessels, being fitted out for the slave trade, have been seized and condemned”?

And, how did it happen that in December 1858, a New York City slave ship secretly landed 420 slaves on the coast of Georgia?

The answer to the questions is simple. For easy money, Northern importers of slaves were openly defying the law.

And, what did the Northern traders do with their slaves?

They sold them to Southern planters. Thus it came about that, in the year 1860, there were in the South some 3,500,000 slaves for whom the Southern people had paid the Northern traders millions of dollars.

Coming back to Mr. Lincoln, it may interest you to learn that, over and over again, he freely admitted that, for the existence of slavery in this country, the North was as responsible as the South.

V.
Were Southern Masters
Brutal to Their Slaves?

Beyond question, some masters cruelly whipped and abused their slaves. Every right thinking Southerner is ashamed of that record.

Has it occurred to you that, even today, some husbands and fathers brutally beat their wives and children? That, however, doesn't prove that all husbands and fathers are brutes, does it?

And, at times, unruly children have to be punished. It was so with the slaves. Most of them were childlike, good natured, well-behaved. But not all! There were those who were treacherous and dangerous and who could be controlled only by the use of force.

Consider also that the only reason the planter bought slaves was that he needed them to work. If he paid \$1,000.00 for a worker, would he be likely to starve or mistreat him?

Fortunately, some foreigners visited the South in those days for study of the situation. James S. Buckingham, a distinguished Englishman, wrote that the slaves were as well off as were English servants in the middle rank of life. He found them “well-fed, well-dressed, and easy to be governed.”

Just before the outbreak of war, a Northern student, Frederick Olmsted by name, traveled through the South to investigate conditions. In 1856 he published a book on the subject. He wrote that the slaves had food and clothing in plenty; that their “health and comfort” were better looked after than was that of many free servants; that as a rule, they were treated with kindness; that frequently their marriage rites were performed in the home of the master by the master’s own minister; that in many places owners and slaves worshiped together in the same church; that he heard little “of harshness or cruelty.”

Now, while we are talking of cruelty, what of the Northern importers’ treatment of the slaves? One of these days you should read a book which describes their trip over from Africa. Often, it recites, they were packed into tiny vessels from 60 to 70 feet in length; they were placed between decks and the space there was from 3 feet, 6 inches, to 3 feet, 10 inches; thus, they had to sit or lie down except that at times trusties were allowed above deck for exercise.

Get that picture. Think of the weeks long voy-

age, the crowding, the heat between decks, the rough seas, the seasickness, the absence of bath or comfort rooms.

When Mr. Lincoln came to Washington in 1847, he found there slave markets which he described as “a sort of negro livery stable.” And when he asked questions, he learned that the slaves were held there only until they could be sold to Southern markets.

One thing more. Have you ever wondered how it comes about that nearly every member of the colored race is a Christian? Many of them were uncivilized in their African home. But, after living for some years in close contact with their Southern owners, they embraced the Christian faith. Do you think that they would have adopted the religion of masters who were brutal to them?