

McK 8/10/53

THE COMING STRUGGLE.

Two great principles, as essentially different as is the light of midday from the deep gloom of midnight, are now convulsing the minds of the people, and fearfully contending for the mastery. Whether SLAVERY or LIBERTY shall be dominant, is the great issue before us; overshadowing every other, and demanding that every man shall do his duty in the coming contest. By successive compromises, the final settlement of the question has been deferred. Men were hopeful, that by a series of concessions, peace and harmony might prevail, and individual rights be respected, but the sequel has proved that while the North was wishful, and ready to respect her obligations, the South was unwilling to do so.* The repeal of the Missouri Compromise, like the opening of the box of Pandora, has unloosed all the evils to which humanity is subjected. The foul fiend War has left his retreat, and the fair plains of a distant territory have been stained with innocent blood!

* Judging from the tenor of the Southern press, it might be inferred that the North, in her compromises, had endeavored to act unjustly towards the other section of the Republic. From the subjoined statement, however, the inconsistency of the charge will be perceived:

One Northern member of Congress is the representative of 91,958 white men and women. One Southern member of Congress is the representative of 68,725 white men and women. The Free States have 176 electoral votes, or one for 75,000 white men and women. The Slave States have 120 electoral votes, or one for 50,000 white men and women.

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