**

*London, TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 7*

The North has more than once charged JEFFERSON DAVIS with issuing proclamations for the foreign market, but JEFFERSON DAVIS never conceived so dazzling a lure as that put forward by President LINCOLN. Among the Washington politicians the emancipation proclamation must be regarded as nothing less than a net, within the meshes if which the whole "civilized world" will be

conveniently deceived. We wonder if it owes its inspiration to Mr. GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN[[1]](#footnote-1), who necessarily will have suggested something on his arrival in Washington, as the result of extensive observation in this country and Europe, and of considerable editorial experience on the premises of the *London American* in Fleet-street. This at least is certain, that whatever Mr. TRAIN may recommend to President LINCOLN is sure to be well considered, if not acted on, and Mr. TRAIN is sufficiently familiar with English and European sentiment to know that if humbug is at the moment an object to the Federal Government in England and Europe, spinning the slavery minnow is preferred to every other means of catching the big fish. Of course, the slavery bait when all there are refused; but is he quite sure that he has not exaggerated the dullness of other people? If England and Europe devoutly sympathize with the suffering slave, it does not follow that England and Europe are not incapable of discriminating between the false and the true friends of the subject race. Negro emancipation, to be appreciated either in the new world or the old, by the unhappy bondsmen, and those who really claim kindred with every colour, must, we believe, be accomplished by peaceful, gradual, and elevating means. The missionary and the schoolmaster must first labour diligently to reclaim the moral and intellectual waste, before four

millions of human beings in a semi-savage state, unaccustomed to provide for themselves or one another, and strangers to the restraint of lust and passion, can enjoy freedom, or be safe associates for those whose happiness it has been to be always free.

President LINCOLN has declared by proclamation that "on January 1, 1863, all slaves within any state or part of a state the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the Federal Government shall be then, thenceforward, and for-ever free." This is plain enough, and to the point, but President LINCOLN, under the constitution of the United States, has no power to issue any such proclamation. Neither does Congress possess the power; and during the last session it was never

once proposed that Congress should assume the power. The proclamation has, therefore, no legal force. President LINCOLN might as well have issued a proclamation to the effect that on and after the 1st January, 1863, debtors should abstain from paying creditors, or that “then, thenceforward, and forever" there should be no more buying and selling, or any more wearing of shoes and stockings. . . . We see in it nothing but craven fear lest France and this country should think the time had come for them to intervene. It is, we believe, an appeal to France and this country against the logical consequences of Federal incompetence and military overthrow. Had President LINCOLN been sincere about emancipation, or possessed sufficient nerve to accept or resist the pressure recently put upon him, no such proclamation would have appeared. Either he would have gone straight and manfully to the mark, as in the case of the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, or he would not have said a word about slavery. As the proclamation stands, it is the wretched makeshift of a pettifogging lawyer. President LINCOLN is aware that by the 1st of January, 1863, Congress will have resumed its sittings, so he puts off the slavery question for Congress to deal with. This is the step President LINCOLN has just taken; the sham with which he attempts to deceive England and Europe.

1. Railroad entrepreneur whose efforts in England failed. In 1861, he was arrested and tried for “breaking and injuring” a London street. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)