

Peace Propositions—A Dialogue.
ABE LINCOLN AND JEFF DAVIS.

JEFF.—Good morning, Mr. Lincoln, I have called to make some proposals for a peace between my own country and yours. Will you hear me?

ABE.—No objection to hear you, but would'nt it have been better not to have had this civil war?

J.—Why, yes, but you made the war.

A.—How so?

J.—The people of the North made you President and that provoked us of the South to bombard Fort Sumter, and so you made the war, don't you see?

A.—You remember the fable of the wolf and the lamb, Mr. Davis?

J.—Well, you must know the institutions of the South, I mean the institution of the South, was in danger when you was elected President, and if you had declined accepting the office and only let Mr. Breckinridge take it, why all would have been right, and there would have been no war.

A.—Then the main object of the national government is, to support that institution!

J.—Certainly; without it there can be no high civilization, no honor, no chivalry, no heroism, no morality, no rice, no religion, no cotton. Free governments should all have slavery for their foundation, else they are not free.

A.—That reminds me of what the backwoodsman said of equal rights. He said it meant that "he had a right to wollop that nigger."

J.—Our institution must be extended, and to extend it, we must have territory. We must go West to the Pacific and South into Mexico. To do all this we want to be an independent nation.

A.—So I understand.

J.—In order to have peace, we must have all the slave States, and run the line West from Missouri to the Pacific ocean.

A.—Including Kansas?

J.—Of course.

A.—And the "Pan-handle" of Virginia?

J.—To be sure.

A.—What next?

J.—You must have a fugitive slave law to prevent our property from running away into your country.

A.—Anything more?

J.—Yes. We must insist that you shall not discuss the subject of slavery in your public journals. We speak the same language, and such discussions would endanger our institutions.

A.—What else do you require?

J.—You must hang Ben. Butler.

A.—[Aside]—Somebody else may hang first.

J.—And Fremont and Sumner and Phelps and Hunter.

A.—Any more?

J.—Yes; all your Generals who take our negroes from their masters.

A.—A very essential part of the recipe for cooking a rabbit is to catch him.

J.—You seem disposed to be facetious. I think it a serious matter.

A.—Yet there is a mirthful side to it. Go on.

J.—The contest has cost us a great deal of money and many lives. We must have indemnity for the past and security for the future.

A.—Indeed! Then we must pay for heating your poker. Is that all?

J.—This is all for the present. What do you think of my terms of peace?

A.—Mighty cool, to come here from a Southern climate. Are you through?

J.—Yes.

A.—There's the door—good bye.

[Exit Jeff, in a rage.]