

**THE CHURCH AS IT IS:
OR, THE FORLORN
HOPE OF SLAVERY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649417643

The Church as It Is: Or, The Forlorn Hope of Slavery by Parker Pillsbury

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

PARKER PILLSBURY

**THE CHURCH AS IT IS:
OR, THE FORLORN
HOPE OF SLAVERY**

THE
CHURCH AS IT IS:
ON THE
FORLORN HOPE OF SLAVERY.

BY
PARKER PILLSBURY.

SECOND EDITION—REVISED AND IMPROVED.

CONCORD, N. H. :
PRINTED BY THE REPUBLICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION.
1885.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

Since the first edition of this little work appeared, almost forty years have passed away. It was when the anti-slavery conflict was at its intensest heat. The time had indeed come, as had been apostolically foretold, "*when judgment should begin at the house of God.*" And many of the fiercest battles were almost literally "between the porch and the altar."

As the following pages will most abundantly prove, slavery had been driven from every other refuge, and, as its last, its *forlorn hope*, it, like the flying Hebrew escaping for his life, had "laid hold on the horns of the altar."

This is the third of the former anti-slavery tracts lately reproduced in the interest of true and reliable history, now endangered by the strange mendacity or ignorance of an unscrupulous clergy, who insist that they or their predecessors were the main instruments in the abolition of slavery,—some of them going so far as to declare that Garrison and his faithful and valiant discipleship actually did more harm than good to the sublime achievement.

The first of the three works here named was published first in England,—its author, Hon. James G. Birney, about the year 1840,—entitled *The American Churches the Bulwarks of American Slavery*. This may be said to have been the first direct testimony ever borne in that form against the church and ministry on the subject of slavery: and this by one of the very pillars, a member of and ruling elder in the Presbyterian denomination, and who, so far as known, never forsook that form of faith and doctrine.

The second came in similar form three years later in a pamphlet of seventy-five pages, entitled *The Brotherhood of Thieves, or, A True Picture of the American Church and Clergy*. 65

Stephen S. Foster. Three or four years afterward was issued the first edition of the work now reproduced—a larger as well as later testimony, and whose authority was never questioned, however stunning its statements and revelations. The third chapter seemed at the time to silence all denials, and to foreclose all defence of those charged with the guilt of slave breeding, slave hunting, and slave holding.

That there were honorable exceptions to the charges was not denied. But the mighty power, the ruling influence, of church and pulpit were proved to be on the side of the oppressor throughout the nation: nay, more, to be almost the oppressor himself, rather than his forlorn hope. But let the terrible facts speak for themselves!

Whoever would pursue these perhaps not agreeable investigations farther are respectfully commended to a volume of more than five hundred pages, entitled *Acts of the Anti-Slavery Apostles*, by Parker Pillsbury, and for sale by him at one dollar and fifty cents, and carefully sent by mail on receipt of price.

P. P.

Concord, N. H., Nov., 1885.

THE

III. 3497

CHURCH AS IT IS:

OR THE

FORLORN HOPE OF SLAVERY.

BY

PARKER PILLSBURY.

SECOND EDITION—REVISED AND IMPROVED.

CONCORD, N. H. :

PRINTED BY THE REPUBLICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION.

1885.

NOTICE.

This work for sale by Parker Pillsbury, Concord, N. H.
Single copy, 25 cents. 5 copies, \$1.00.

Also, The American Churches the Bulwarks of American
Slavery, by Hon. James G. Birney. Price 15 cents; and

Acts of the Anti-Slavery Apostles, by Parker Pillsbury.
Price \$1.50.

INTRODUCTION.

No apology is offered for the following work. It is a brief exhibition of the American Church *as it is*, in reference to the slave system of the United States.

That slavery finds its surest and sternest defence in the prevailing religion of the country, is no longer questionable. Let it be driven from the Church, with the burning seal of its reprobation and execration stamped on its iron brow, and its fate is fixed forever. Only while its horrors are baptized and sanctified in the name of Christianity, can it maintain an existence.

The Anti-Slavery movement has unmasked the character of the American Church. Our religion has been found at war with the interests of humanity and the laws of God. And it is more than time the world was awakened to its unhallowed influence on the hopes and happiness of man, while it makes itself the palladium of the foulest iniquity ever perpetrated in the sight of heaven.

Excellent works have already been written and published on the connection of the American Church with American Slavery. Among these, "The American Church the Bulwark of American Slavery," by James G. Birney; "The Brotherhood of Thieves, or, A True Picture of the American Church and Clergy," by Stephen S. Foster; and "Slavery and the Slaveholder's Religion," by Samuel Brooke, are the most valuable. They contain the important action of the Church on the subject, down to the time when they were written, and have had the singular good fortune never to be questioned in their statements of facts—and for the very good reason, that they are, beyond all question, singularly true.

A new work is now demanded, to present to the world the more recent action of the various ecclesiastical bodies of the country. The object of this is, mainly, to meet that demand.

There is one consideration to which the public attention ought

to be specially called. Since, by the introduction of steam navigation, the Atlantic has been narrowed to a ferry, and a voyage to Britain to a pleasant summer's jaunt, the clergy of this country have been unfortunately visited with great prostrations of health. A voyage to sea is a most effectual panacea, and is fast coming to be the Universal Restorative.

But, unfortunately, the public sentiment of Britain (as of all Christendom) is mightily against our "peculiar institution." Hence, our clerical delegations are driven to the unwilling necessity of calling themselves abolitionists, in order to pass as honest men. A man stealer, or his abettor, there (good Christian as he is here) being regarded as not greatly better than the stealer of other and less valuable goods. The consequence is, the British Church has been deplorably deceived, both as to the character of American Christianity and the American Clergy.

Every minister, as soon as he treads the soil of England, or Scotland, proclaims himself an abolitionist. Whether it be so, it is the object of this work to show. It may not be improper, therefore, to announce that it is written particularly for circulation in Great Britain. If the facts it unfolds do not startle the Churches of that Empire into the duty of immediately severing all the ties that bind them to the ecclesiastical bodies of these United States, then surely is the vitality of their vision deplorably to be doubted.

It will be the object of this publication to exhibit—

- I. The Church—AS IT WAS.
- II. The Church—AS IT IS, and
- III. The Church as, by its own admissions and assumptions, IT MIGHT BE.

Truth only is sought. As a literary production, the work will undoubtedly be beneath criticism; but in the exhibition of facts, it is eminently above, and challenges all criticism.