Newspaper Views on Lincoln’s Election

Stanton Spectator, November 13, 1860

The success of the Republicans in the Presidential election is but a barren victory, and its fruits, like the apples of the Dead Sea, will turn to ashes upon their lips. They will have the Executive but no other branch of the Government, and will, consequently, be impotent for mischief—they will not have the power to do any harm, however much disposed they may be to do so. We have the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court in our favor, either one of which would of itself be a sufficient protection to our rights. As we have all three there can, by no possibility be any danger that our rights can be violated. No law can reach the President for his signature without first having passed both Houses of Congress, and we know that as at present composed no bill violative of our rights can pass either House. So that we are perfectly safe. The President cannot even make an appointment without the consent of the Senate, so that we have nothing to dread in that respect. If we remain united we have nothing to fear from the Black Republicans, because, as before stated, we have both Houses of Congress and the Supreme Court in our favor. The danger is in secession.

Charleston Mercury, November 10, 1860

The following resolution was read aloud by Mr. L.W. Spratt – a leader in the city of Charleston – before a crowded city hall on the evening of November 9, 1860:

“Whereas it is now certain that Mr. Lincoln has been elected president of the United States; and, whereas, That election determines the fact that the powers of this Government have passed into the hands of a section only of this Union, and of a section implacably hostile to our interests and our institutions: we, citizens of Charleston, deeming it our privilege to express to the General Assembly of this State, in session now, our hopes and wishes upon this emergency and deeming a call of a Convention to consider of secession, a measure evidently demanded y the exigencies of this occasion:

Be it therefore Resolved, That it be urged upon the General Assembly to promptly call a convention of the people of this State, to meet at the earliest possible moment, and sever our connection to the present Government.”