

"The Dred Scott Decision"

July 23, 1859, page 479

An advertisement from
Harper's Weekly

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NOW READY:
THE
Dred Scott Decision.

OPINION OF CHIEF-JUSTICE
ROGER B. TANEY,
WITH AN INTRODUCTION,
BY DR. J. H. VAN EVRIE.

ALSO,
AN APPENDIX,
BY SAM. A. CARTWRIGHT, M.D., of New Orleans,
ENTITLED,
"Natural History of the Prognathous
Race of Mankind."
ORIGINALLY WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK DAY-BOOK.

THE GREAT WANT OF A BRIEF PAMPHLET, containing the famous decision of Chief-Justice Taney, in the celebrated Dred Scott Case, has induced the Publishers of the DAY-BOOK to present this edition to the public. It contains a Historical Introduction by Dr. Van Evrie, author of "Negroes and Negro Slavery," and an Appendix by Dr. Cartwright, of New Orleans, in which the physical differences between the negro and the white races are forcibly presented. As a whole, this pamphlet gives the *historical*, *legal*, and *physical* aspects of the "Slavery" Question in a concise compass, and should be circulated by thousands before the next presidential election. All who desire to answer the arguments of the abolitionists should read it. In order to place it before the masses, and induce Democratic Clubs, Democratic Town Committees, and all interested in the cause, to order it for distribution, it has been put down at the following low rates, for which it will be sent, free of postage, to any part of the United States. Dealers supplied at the same rate.

Single Copies	\$0 25
Five Copies	1 00
Twelve Copies	2 00
Fifty Copies	7 00
One Hundred Copies	12 00
Every additional Hundred.....	10 00

Address
VAN EVRIE, HORTON, & CO.,
Publishers of DAY-BOOK,
No. 40 Ann Street, New York.

Note:

The advertisement of this pro-slavery pamphlet made a one-time appearance in *Harper's Weekly*. Samuel A. Cartwright, the author of the appendix, was a racist

physician whose medical specialty was listed somewhat ominously as "Negro diseases." He was also one of the few Southern Democrats to support Senator Stephen Douglas's position on slavery in the Kansas territory. Douglas wanted slavery to be decided by the territorial residents themselves (popular sovereignty). Note that the advertised pamphlet is aimed particularly at Democratic clubs for use in the upcoming elections.

With the rise of abolitionism in the 1830s, the white Southern defense of slavery began to change from presenting the institution as a necessary evil to alleging that it was a positive good. The latter position was argued from various perspectives—religious, philosophical, sociological, and so forth. The pro-slavery defense became more strident and pervasive as sectional tensions over the slavery issue rose in the 1850s.

Among the arguments proffered for the defense of slavery were biological ones advanced by members of the Southern intelligentsia. Men like Cartwright and Josiah Nott, an ethnologist at the University of Alabama, contended that blacks were biologically inferior to whites. Their theories assumed a separate creation for blacks and whites, an idea which violated traditional Christian belief and thus compelled most white Southerners to look elsewhere for pro-slavery arguments. The biological thesis, therefore, remained the peculiar orthodoxy of the educated elite.

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