

“Governor’s Message,” *Deseret News*, December 25, 1852, 116.

#### 4. Brigham Young gives his assessment of slavery, servitude, and the servant code in his end of the year “Governor’s Message,” December 25, 1852.<sup>1</sup>

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. . . the sound of *dissension*, *secession*, and *disunion*; which but a few years ago, no man dared utter aloud: have now become topics of general conversation; and statesmen in the halls of Congress coolly and deliberately hold forth the merits, and demerits of measures, which shall rive asunder the Federal compact and destroy the bond of Union, the ever glorious Constitution; that honored, sacred, and invaluable bequest of Patriotic Fathers. . . .

Happily this “zeal without knowledge” may evaporate, like the exhalations of the morning, beneath the influence of the rising Sun. The Compromise measures of the last Congress have abated the storm, and thus far, seem sufficient to guarantee safety, and repose; but not until the subject of servitude and the relation existing between Master and Servant shall be understood and acted upon, and carried out by all parties on a righteous principle, may we expect quiet in our Nation’s councils. When southern Statesmen shall learn that Afric’s sons and daughters are not goods and chattels, and will attach unto them, that humanity and moral accountability to which they are entitled; and cease to appropriate to an inordinate cupidity, the souls of men; and northern fanaticism learn to know that “Canaan” shall be servant of servants unto his brethren; and that there is but little merit, in subverting the decrees of Providence, or substituting their own kindred spirit and flesh, to perform the offices allotted by superior wisdom to the descendants of Cain. If they wish to do them a kindness, and are actuated by the “higher law principle,” let them purchase them into FREEDOM, and place them in their own household, where they can partake of their kindness, wisdom, and intelligence, and also participate in the sympathies of

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<sup>1</sup> “Governor’s Message,” *Deseret News*, December 25, 1852, 116. Similar to the speech which Thomas Bullock read to the legislative assembly on January 5, 1852 to begin the session, this speech was prepared in advance and clearly does not reflect Brigham Young’s speaking style and his short, direct, sometimes earthy expressions. Nonetheless, it was no doubt prepared in consultation with Young and reflects his views if not his words.

their “Soi disant”<sup>2</sup> friends, thereby obviating the necessity of white servants, who should tread the theatre of life and action, in a higher sphere: also obviating that bitter hatred, which the constant agitation of the subject of slavery in Congress, engenders in the bosoms of those, who should (being of a common brotherhood,) dwell together in unity. Happily for Utah, this question has been wisely left open for the decision of her citizens, and the law of the last session, so far proves a very salutary measure, as it has nearly freed the Territory of the colored population; also enabling the people to control all who see proper to remain, and cast their lot among us.

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<sup>2</sup> A French expression meaning “so called” or “self-styled.”

