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## OUR GUARANTY OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH

It was sealed for us by our Revolutionary Forefathers.
Free speech is guaranteed by the United States Constitution. It is of fundamental importance. If a community is to remain intelligent, self-respecting and self-governing, it must guard jealously its right to discuss, in an orderly assembly and unmolested. any institution or principle which affects society. To discuss individuals, however, and personally criticize or condemn them, is quite another matter, and the guaranty of free speech does not justify indulgence in personalities.

Thru the encroachment of selfish interests and organizations and the indifference of the people this priceless birthright may be lost!!

It was saved for us by our Fathers in the Civil War.

Slavery had destroyed free speech in the South; and reaching into the north it had put a price upon the heads of men who wrote or spoke their convictions. It had even invaded the United States Senate and sought to stifle
free speech, as was instanced by the assault on Charles Sumner and the attempt to mob Thaddeus Stevens. The Civil War saved not only the South, but also the North. Freedom of speech and the press were restored, and the Constitution was preserved.

How shall we maintain our inheritance?

The sons must perpetuate the fruits of the suffering of the Fathers.

The old conflict must be fought over again. Bills have been introduced into Congress and into some State Legislatures to prevent criticism of established institutions. Today from every point of the compass we hear of the angry mobs preventing the discussion of the Catholic Church. If we are loyal sons we cannot be indifferent to the efforts of our "best citizens" to prevent the light from shining upon any institution, Catholic or Protestant that seeks a shelter under the flag of the Union. We as a people have a constitutional right to be protected in uttering our approval or disapproval of any church or institution, secret or open, without being browbeaten or attacked by anyone, be he high or low, in church or state. We must stand for this right.

For free epeech and a free press.

THE CHRISTIAN CYNOSURE: CHICAGO, JANUARY 28,1869 .


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