Points gained. Seward's summary.

While there is much waste of talk upon abstractions, and flaming speeches in Congress, we have really succeeded in carrying practical measures of lasting importance, and determining the character of the of the Administration, so as to challenge the sympathies of mankind.

1. Passports are granted, without inquiry as to color.
2. Slavery is abolished in the District of Columbia.
3. The African slave trade is suppressed.
4. Hayti and Liberia are recognized.
5. National aid to State emancipation is sanctioned.
6. The slave-holders, to be secured, must be loyal.

In letter to Weed, dated April 25, 1862.

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

On Monday morning of the week following these victories , President Lincoln told Seward that he wished a special Cabinet meeting to be called. The department messenger was sent out with the notices, and the Cabinet assembled at noon. All were present. Secretary Chase has noted in his diary the substance of what was said and done:

The President remarked:" You all remember that, several weeks ago, I read to you an order I had prepared which, on account of objections made by some of you, was not issued. Ever since then my mind has been much occupied with this subject, and I have thought all along that the time for acting upon it might probably come. I think the time has come now. I wish it was a better time. I wish that we were in a better condition. The action of the Army against the rebels has not been quite what I should have liked. But they have been driven out of Maryland, and Pennsylvania is no longer in danger of invasion. When the rebel army was at Frederick, I determined, as soon as it should be driven out of Maryland, to issue a proclamation of Emancipation, such as I thought likely to be most useful. I said nothing to any one, but I made the promise to myself and to my Master. The rebel army is now driven out, and I am going to fulfill that promise."

After referring to the past discussions of the question, and the details of the proposed proclamation, he read the draft aloud, commenting on each paragraph as he went on.

When he had finished, Seward said:" The general question having been decided, nothing can be further about that. Would it not however, make the proclamation more clear and decided, to leave out all reference to the act being sustained during the incumbency of the present President, and not merely say that the Government 'recognized,' but that it will <u>maintain</u> the freedom it proclaims?"

Chase followed, saying, "The proclamation does not indeed mark out exactly the course I would myself prefer, but I am ready to take it just as it is written, and to stand by it with all my heart. I think, however, the suggestions of Governor Seward very judicious, and shall be glad to have them adopted. "

Each of the other members wasasked by the President for his opinion. All approved the suggested changes, and the draft was modified accordingly.

Seward also suggested that "in the passage relating to colonization, some language should be introduced, to show that the colonization proposed was to be only with the consent of the colonists. and the consent of the States in which colonies might be attempted.

This was also adopted.

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