

## Thomas Green Fessenden's Canto IV. The Jeffersoniad, 1805

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[*Excerpt*]

...

A Chief who stands not shilly shally,  
But is notorious for—a *Sally*,<sup>1</sup>  
Might Mars defy in “war’s dire tug,”  
Or Satan to an Indian hug.

Therefore, ye Feds, if you should now hard  
Things mutter of a nerveless coward,  
’Twill prove your character, ye quizzes,  
Black as an Empress’s black phiz is.<sup>2</sup>

’Tis true some wicked wags there are,  
Who laugh about this dark affair,  
But I can tell the shameless faction,  
They ought t’admire the same transaction;

...

For I will prove, sans disputation,  
Our Chief has wondrous calculation;  
And is in Politics, as able  
As Mazarine or Machiàvel.

For where’s a readier resource  
For that sweet, “social intercourse,”  
Which at a grand inauguration  
Was promis’d this our happy nation.

And if, by his example, he goes  
To recommend the raising negroes,  
The chance is surely in his favour  
Of being President for ever.

A southern negro is, you see, man,  
Already three fifths of a freeman,  
And when Virginia gets the staff,  
He’ll be a freeman and an half!<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [from Fessenden’s note:] [We] leave it for our commentators to decide, whether, by the term *Sally*, we mean an attack upon an *enemy*, or dalliance with a *friend*.

<sup>2</sup> [from Fessenden’s note:] [We] cannot determine whether we mean to allude to the jetty visage of the Empress of Morocco, or any particular paramour of the Emperor of America.

<sup>3</sup> [Fessenden’s note:] The preponderance which Virginia has already obtained in the scale of representation, will enable her to proceed to increase the privileges and immunities of her black

Great men can never lack supporters,  
Who manufacture their own voters;  
Besides, 'tis plain as yonder steeple,  
They will be *fathers to the people*.

And 'tis a decent, clever, comical,  
New mode of being economical,  
For when a black is rais'd, it follows,  
It saves a duty of ten dollars.<sup>4</sup>

And he's a wayward blockhead, who says  
That making negroes or papposes,  
Is not consistent with the plan,  
Of Tom Pain's precious "Rights of Man."

Then Mister Opposition-prater,  
Since that reproach to human nature,  
The most nefarious Guinea trade  
May fall by *Presidential aid*,—

'Tis plain your best and wisest course is,  
With Antifeds to join your forces,  
And all combine to daub and gloss over  
Our Philanthropical Philosopher.

...

Document Source: Democracy Unveiled; or, Tyranny Stripped of the Garb of Patriotism

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population. In this she will be governed by the strict rules of Republican propriety; which always consults the *greatest good of the greatest number*.

<sup>4</sup> [Fessenden's note:] This is a duty which has been proposed, and probably will at some future period, be adopted in the Southern States, to prevent the importation of slaves. It is surprising, that, among all the calculations for political economy, which have distinguished our penny-saving administration, this pleasant scheme has not been adopted more generally. But a word to the wise will not be thrown away. Our southern Nabobs will improve on this hint, and sable *Nabobesses* will be fashionable articles.