

Address delivered before the Southern Baptist Convention,  
in Savannah, Georgia, May 10, 1861, by Dr. Richard Fuller.

Beloved Brethren: You require from me no expression of  
gratitude for the honor thus conferred upon me the second time.  
Were it proper, I could say much, for my burdened heart would,  
I know, be cheered by your sympathies. But there are times for  
brief speeches and vigorous action, and as I wish to impress the  
truth upon you, I will set the example.

Let me but utter this reflection: that, as we are in the  
midst of most exasperating time, so ought we to give the more  
earnest heed to ourselves, lest in any moment we forget the Spirit  
of Jesus, which ought to breathe in all our actions, and words,  
and feelings.

If any minor differences have unhappily insinuated themselves  
into this body, let the present strife and hostilities around  
us calm and heal these discrepancies and bind us more closely  
together. The world has never seen—Heaven has never wept over—  
a more mournful phenomenon than that now exhibited (I grieve to  
say it) at the North, where not only politicians and bad men,  
but Christian editors, and pastors, and churches are breathing  
out slaughter inciting to fury passions already terribly in-  
flamed and seemingly thirsting for <sup>fraternal</sup> ~~fraternal~~ carnage. Let us  
watch and pray, lest we forget the example and Spirit of Him  
who has taught us to 'bless them that curse us and 'do good to

them that hate us and despitefully use us. As we hear the ministers and churches of the Prince of Peace crying out for food, let us exclaim, 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do'; let us say, 'Into their secret, my soul, enter not thou; into their assemblies, mine honor, be thou not united.'

*perturbation*

Above all, let these alarms and ~~perturbations~~ elevate our thoughts to that other world whither we are hastening, and with which we have more to do than with this present evil world; let them inspire us with more earnest aspiration for that rest which remains for the people of God, and into which we shall soon enter.

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