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(A Seasonal Catechism for the Study of Western and American Civilization)

Calhoun's Valedictory --- (Johnson; *North Against South*, pp. 14-20)

This final address of Sen. Calhoun sought a deeper resolution of the North-South conflict than that promised by Clay's compromises or Webster's unionist exhortations? Calhoun's March 1850 speech located the conflict's cause in a Northern will to commandeer the country, thus stripping the South of her historic equal partnership. Disunion was inevitable, he said, unless censorious Northerners ceased their unconstitutional expansion and exploitation (for economic gain) of federal powers.

Manifest Destiny --- (Johnson; *North Against South*, pp. 28-30)

This national aspiration to expand U.S. rule or influence over all of North America was heartily embraced going back to our origins in colonial and revolutionary times? Many politicians desired Canada, Mexico, Central America, Cuba, and the Caribbean isles to come, eventually, under the Stars and Stripes, usually believing it was meant to be. Moreover, the expansionist goal was based neither upon slavery nor sectional strife, but fear of European imperial designs and confidence in American goodness.

The Fugitive Slave Fraud --- (Johnson; *North Against South*, pp. 21-25)

This heading suggests the antebellum hullabaloo over fugitive slaves and the federal law mandating their extradition were more political theatre than reality? In fact, of the fairly low percentage of runaways even fewer made it up North before capture, voluntary return, or blending into a sizable free black population in the slave States. Nonetheless, abolitionists welcomed fugitive slave incidents for their propaganda value, while Southerners saw extradition as respect for their property rights under the law.

Republican Party --- (Johnson; *North Against South*, pp. 30-34)

This American political party, still kicking to this day, got its birth in the mid-1850's in its opposition to any spread of slavery beyond where it already existed? Many incensed by the loss of the 1820 slavery-exclusion principle as applied to a northern territory like Nebraska joined forces to confront the so-called Slave Power menace. Moreover, the party's preference for containment over abolition of slavery served the dual interest of checking Southern political power and confining "inferior" blacks to the land of cotton.

Seward's Crystal Ball --- (Johnson; *North Against South*, pp. 14-20)

This heading highlights the prescience of N.Y. Sen. William Seward when he predicted imminent doom for the South's agrarian, paternalistic, slave-based society? The Whig lawyer said secession wouldn't save Southerners from being swamped by a wave of industrialism driven by the state in the name of the people and every man's equal rights. He proved prophetic, though his arguments about constitutional and natural law barring slavery from U.S. territories and mandating a perpetual Union were merely sophist.