

The Crisis in America.

Motley, the distinguished historian, has published a long article in the *London Times* on "The Causes of the American Civil War," which he denominates "The Crisis in America."

With great fullness and accuracy of information and cogency of logic he shows the fallacy of the position of the Confederate States in regard to the right of peaceable secession, and proves ~~that that~~ the war was forced upon the United States by the acts of the rebels. This letter, it is said, has already exercised a great influence on public opinion in England, as the high position of the author gives more than ordinary authority to his statements. The heresies of the Calhoun school in regard to the nature of our Federal Government have been widely accepted in Great Britain, and such an article as this, by Mr. Motley was necessary to disabuse the public mind of the errors on which its seemingly perverse misjudgment of American affairs was founded.

In one paragraph, written with all Mr. Motley's power of vivid and vigorous statement, he answers, by a swift review of facts, the cry in England that the present war in is foolish and criminal on the part of the United States.

"It is often asked," he says, "why have the United States taken up arms? Why have the United States Government plunged into what is sometimes called 'this wicked war'? Especially

is it thought amazing in England that the President should have recently called for a great army of volunteers and regulars, and that the inhabitants of the free States should sprung forward as one man to his call, like men suddenly relieved from a spell. It would have been amazing had the call been longer delayed. The national flag, insulted and defied for many months, had at last been lowered, after the most astonishing kind of siege recorded in history, to an armed and organized rebellion; and a prominent personage in the Government of the Southern 'confederacy,' is reported to have proclaimed amid the exultations that before the first of May the same cherished emblem of our nationality should be struck from the Capital of Washington. An advance of the 'confederate troops' upon that city; the flight or captivity of the President and his Cabinet; the seizure of the national archives, the national title deeds, and the whole national machinery of foreign intercourse and internal administration by the confederates; and the proclamation from the American palladium itself of the Montgomery Constitution in the place of the one devised by Washington, Madison, Hamilton, and Jay—a constitution in which slavery should be the universal law of the land, the corner-stone of the political edifice—were events which seemed for a few days of intense anxiety almost probable."