

WHO IS RIGHT ?

This question, always of vital importance, is fraught with momentous interest as relates to the present attitude of political parties. We are no sectionalist, we desire the prosperity of the whole, and alike of all parts of our common country ; and therefore the universal acknowledgment of those principles of justice and human equality, recognized in the natural and declared right of each and every human being, to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness ; the acknowledgment and observance of which, are indispensable to our Nation's prosperity and future glory. We are no alarmist, we know what jealousy and hate and treason have done, and contemplate with some degree of dread, the consequences of the same devilish spirit in the future, which animated this execrable trio of demons, and gave them their power over misguided men in the past. But our hope is large, and allowing for the worst, we believe all that traitors can now do, aided by those who have encouraged them from the beginning, and from whom we can expect nothing better, is like the destroying angel in the apocalyptic vision, to hurt the earth for a little season by retarding the progress of truth and justice among men. They have no power beyond the brief span, which the Almighty has permitted Satan to give them ; and that includes not the ability to prevent the ultimate triumph of right and justice over violence and wrong. They are warring against the progress of the age, against humanity, against destiny, against God, and they will find it an up-hill business, if we are not much mistaken. We believe in the general advancement of the race, notwithstanding the argument found against it in the existence of Copperheads and traitors.

Our faith in the principles of free government, the permanency of our institutions, and our high mission among the nations of the earth is well illustrated in the following patriotic and eloquent extract from Senator Nye's great speech :

Sir, I entertain no fears for the future of this country. It is written by the finger of Omnipotence Himself that this nation is to be the freest, noblest, happiest nation of the earth. Through whatever tribulations we may have to go, I see through the mists and the fogs of the present, its coming glory in the future. This continent is destined and dedicated as the abode of a happy and free people. If our sufferings have not yet been sufficient to bring us to the true consideration of what is demanded at our hands, it may be that we shall be called upon to wade through still deeper afflictions; but, sir, the spirit of this people will rise with the demand. It will carry on to perfection the great work commenced by our fathers here of making this the abode of the free and the home of the oppressed of every race and clime.

We are not a political zealot, we do not take extreme views. We are naturally and habitually something of a conservative, when there is any conservative ground to stand upon. But we do believe now as we did a year ago, and as we have all the time, that "treason should be made odious," and that traitors should be required to "take the back seats." Are there any arguments against this view of the case now that did not exist a year ago? Are treason and rebellion against the freest, best and most magnanimous Government on earth, less a crime now than then? Do traitors and rebels, in a state of forced subjection love the Government better than when with arms they fought against it? If they do

they have failed to make it known, at a time too, that they could but know that the best of behavior was necessary on their part, to regain the confidence of a Government and a people whose confidence they have so shamefully abused. At the close of the war, they were willing to make almost any concessions, but now they regard themselves as "masters of the situation." They expected that "treason would be made odious," that they would be required to "take the back seats," that the man engaged in treason would "be subjected to a severe ordeal before he is restored to citizenship." These things have not been done. Congress has asked no more. These are the declarations of the President, and to have been consistent, he should have been satisfied with nothing less. These things have not been done, and the course, pursued by those whom they regard as their friends and allies, in the North, encourages the rebels to hope for the accomplishment by legislation, of that triumph of their principles and policy, which they have so signally failed to effect by an appeal to arms. We think the President was right when he declared that treason should be made odious, and wrong when he failed to do it. We think he was right when he declared that the man engaged in treason should "be subjected to a severe ordeal before he is restored to citizenship."

ordeal before he is restored to citizenship," and Congress is now right in demanding that it be done. They have so demanded, as follows, in the third section of the new Constitutional amendment.

No person shall be a Senator, Representative in Congress, or elector of President or Vice President, or hold any office, Civil or Military, under the United States, or any State, who having previously taken oath as member of Congress, or as officer of the United States, or as member of State Legislature, or as Executive or Judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same; or given aid and comfort to the enemy. Congress may by vote, of two thirds of each house, remove such disability.

We think these terms are not too severe, and that the wisdom of Congress as thus expressed will be approved by the people.