

### Words Fitly Spoken.

The leading British journals have for the past few months been largely engaged in discussing our national difficulties. The *London Times*, though not directly justifying the South in their rebellion and treason to the National Union, takes about the position of leading Democrats hereabouts—that the Government is scarcely justified in using its strength to crush out the fell spirit of secession, and bring the disloyal States into submission to the constitution and laws, and to a proper recognition of the legitimate constitutional authorities. The *Times* hardly favors rebellion, but covertly hopes that dismantling the Union, will promote the advantage of our great rival—the British nation. On the 23<sup>d</sup> of May, the *Times* indulges in a long leader, to which the Hon. Cassius M. Clay, our able, distinguished and patriotic Minister to Russia, most fittingly replies. We regret our want of room to publish the *Times* article, which would demonstrate how clearly Mr. Clay demolishes its insidious positions, of their doubt and want of policy in reducing the rebels to peace—of punishing the traitors—of recovering our assailed and stolen nationality, and the property of the government, and of protecting the loyal Union feeling, now smothered in the States claiming to have seceded.

His doctrine is that the Union owes it to itself, to its dignity, to humanity and the world, to recover its high position and place among the nations, at every hazard; to maintain, as he so eloquently expresses it, that Union, Patriotism, respect for the laws, and "national justice are the only safe diplomacy, and the lasting foundations of nations." Read his sentiments, so admirably and eloquently expressed, and rejoice with us, that one so eminently natural, so proudly patriotic, has been

selected at one of the most important of the European courts, as the representative of our nation, and its honor and integrity:

MORLEY'S HOTEL, LONDON, }  
May 17, 1861. }

*To the Editor of the London Times:—*

SIR:—Allow me in your journal to make a few remarks upon the complications of the United States of America, which, I am surprised to find, are so little understood this side of the Atlantic.

1. "What are we fighting for?" We, the people of the United States of America (to use the language of our Constitution) are fighting to maintain our nationality and the principle of liberty upon which it was founded—that nationality which Great Britain has pledged herself, both by past comity and sacred obligations of treaty, to respect; those great principles of liberty, that all power is derived from the consent of the governed; trial by jury, freedom of speech and the press; that without law there is no liberty—which we inherited from Great Britain herself, and which, having been found to lie at the base of all progress and civilization, we desire to perpetuate for ourselves and the future of all other nations. The so-called "Confederate States of America" rebel against us—against our nationality, and against all the principles of its structure. Citizens of the United States—of the one Government (not of Confederate States, as they would have the world believe, but of us, "the people,") they propose, not by common legal consent, but by arms, to sever our nation into separate inde-

pendencies. Claiming to "be left alone," they conspire against us; seize by force our forts, stores and arms; appropriate to themselves, our mints, moneys, and vessels at sea; capture our armies, and threaten the capitol even at Washington!

The word "secession" is used to cover up treason and delude the nation. They stand to us in the relation of one "people;" the idea of "State Sovereignty" is utterly delusive. We gave up the old "Confederation" to avoid just such complications as have now occurred. The States are by our Constitution deprived of all the rights of independent sovereigns, and the National Government acts not through State organizations, but directly upon the citizens of the States themselves—to that highest of powers, the right of *life and death*. The States cannot keep an army, or navy, or even repel invasion, except when necessity will not allow time for national action; can make no treaty, nor coin money, nor exercise any of the first great essential powers of "sovereignty." In a word, they can no more "secede" from the Union than Scotland or Ireland can secede from England.

The professed friends of the independence of nations and popular rights, they have not only overthrown the Constitution of the United States but the Constitutions of the "Confederate States" themselves, refusing in every case to refer their new usurpations to the votes of the people, thus making themselves doubly traitors to both the States and the Nation. The despotic rulers over 4,000,000 of enslaved Africans, they presume to extend over us,

the white races of all nations, the same despotism, by ignoring the political rights of all but their own class, by restrictions upon the popular franchise by the suppression of the freedom of speech and of the press, by the terrorism of "Lynch law," or tyrannical enactments, backed by standing armies, to crush out the independence of thought, the ineradicable instincts of our world wide humanity — with the atrocious dogma that negro slavery is the only basis of real conservatism and progressive civilization, — and that the true solution of the contest of all-time between labor and capital is, that capital should own the laborer, whether white or black.

The success of such demands would send the tide of barbarism not only over the millions of the New World and the isles of the Western oceans, but roll it back over England and emancipated Europe, and blot out from history this the greatest glory of our times.

2. "But can you subdue the revolted States?" Of course we can. The whole seven revolted States (2,173,000) have not as much white population as the single State of New York (3,861,563) by 1,500,000 people. If all the Slave States were to make common cause, they have only 8,907,894 whites, with 4,000,000 slaves, while the Union has about 30,000,000 of homogeneous people, as powerful in peace and war as the world has seen. Intelligent, hardy, and "many-sided," their late apparent lethargy and weakness, was the self-possession of conscious strength. When they had made up their minds that force was necessary, they moved upon Washington with such speed,

numbers and steadiness as is not surpassed in history. We have the money at a lower rate of interest than ever before, the men, and the command of the seas and the internal waters. We can blockade them by sea and invade them by land, and close up the rebellion in a single year, if we are "let alone!" For the population of the Slave States is divided perhaps equally for and against the Union—the loyal citizens being, for the time, overawed by the organized conspiracy of the traitors, while the North is united to a man—the late allies of the South, the Democratic party, being now more earnest for the subjugation of the rebels than the Republicans.

3. "But can you govern a subjugated people and reconstruct the Union?" We do not propose to "subjugate" the revolted States—we propose to put down simply the rebel citizens. We go to the rescue of the loyal Unionists of all the States. We carry safety and peace, and liberty to the Union-loving people of the South who will of themselves (the tyranny overthrown) send back their representatives to Congress, and the Union will be "reconstructed" without a change of a letter in the constitution of the United States. Did England subjugate Ireland and Scotland? Are the United Kingdom less homogeneous than of old, before the wars against rebellion? So will the United States rise from the smoke of battle with renewed stability and power. In turn, now let us ask the British public some questions.

Where should British honor place her in this contest? We overthrow that political element in America which has all through our history been the studied denouncer and real hater of the

British nation, while we have been always from the beginning, the friends of England. Because, though under different forms of Government, we had common sympathies and a common cause, and therefore a common interest. England was the conservator of liberty in Europe—the old world; we in the new. If the Confederate States are right, then is England wrong. If slavery must be extended in America, then must England restore it in the West Indies, blot out the most glorious page of her history, and call back her freed men into chains! Let her say to the martyrs of freedom from all the nations who have sought refuge and a magnanimous defense on her shores—Return to your scaffolds and your prison houses; England is no more England! Let the *Times* cease to appeal longer to the enlightened opinion of the world; nay, let the statues of the great dead, through which I passed in reverence yesterday to the Houses of her political intelligence, be thrown from their pedestals, when England shall forget the utterances of her Chathams, her Wilberforces, and her Broughams—that natural justice is the only safe diplomacy and lasting foundation of the independence of nations.

Your ob't servant, C. M. CLAY.