

Southern Testimony.

An intelligent citizen of California from the South, whose opportunities have been very ample for knowing the real condition of things there, wrote us a private letter a few days since, in which he presented important views and facts that we are sure will interest our readers. We take the liberty of publishing a portion of the letter:

"You refer to my position on the unhappy affairs of the country. I cannot conscientiously occupy any other position. Nothing has been done by any administration to justify the destruction of our national life. We have constitutional remedies for all mal-administrations, and as good citizens we should rely upon them, and not upon the destruction of the country itself. Secession is national suicide; it is destructive of all the interests of the south, and no remedy for the evils of which complaint is made. A few ambitious political demagogues for many years have been working secretly for the overthrow of the Government and the establishment of a southern Empire, having for its basis monarchical ideas. The present southern Confederacy is not the end of the secession movement; it is a mere blind; it is a ruse to captivate the popular mind, preparatory to the repudiation of a republican government. This is not generally understood by the people, for the time has not come for the full development of the plan.

Falsehood and force are the great instruments employed to "fire the southern heart," and precipitate the people into rebellion. Very few see both sides of the question, and believing their po-

litical demagogues for many years have been working secretly for the overthrow of the Government and the establishment of a southern Empire, having for its basis monarchical ideas. The present southern Confederacy is not the end of the secession movement; it is a mere blind; it is a ruse to captivate the popular mind, preparatory to the repudiation of a republican government. This is not generally understood by the people, for the time has not come for the full development of the plan.

Falsehood and force are the great instruments employed to "fire the southern heart," and precipitate the people into rebellion. Very few see both sides of the question, and believing their political leaders, they suppose that their homes and institutions are threatened with destruction by the present administration, and, of course are ready to defend themselves to the last. The masses are honest and patriotic, but fearfully deceived. With them war is a matter of self-preservation. But when the true state of the case comes to be understood, the people who have been so grossly deceived will rise in their might and visit a terrible retribution upon the authors of their misery. But as war has been waged against the Government, understanding as I have done for years the designs of the conspirators, I must, as a Christian citizen, take my stand on the side of my country. To do otherwise I should prove false to all my convictions of right and wrong. I should be an enemy to every southern interest; I should be a party in the work of self destruction. This I cannot do. I love the sunny south, her generous people, her churches and ministers; I rejoice in her prosperity and happiness; but to approve of secession under existing circumstances, would be equivalent to desiring the destruction of a prosperous people, the subversion of their institutions, and the inauguration of lawlessness and endless wars."—*San Francisco Evangel*.
