

We have already briefly exposed the foolishness and absurdity of the assertion so frequently reiterated that England would be better pleased with our war if it were openly directed against the institution of slavery. There is, we admit, a strong anti-slavery sentiment in England. Her clergy and her philanthropists are almost unanimous against the institution.— Her people have made some sacrifices to be rid of it. And the government is supposed to have a fixed policy unfavorable to its extension in other countries.— But England is a manufacturing and commercial nation; and it is perfectly safe to say that she will never engage in any crusade or movement which essentially interferes with these great interests. That our present war does interfere with these interests is plain enough; and the question which England every day asks herself is, how best and soonest she can get rid of it, and open the Southern ports.

Thus far she has done nothing inconsistent with her avowed neutrality. She is, apparently, willing that we shall conduct the war in our own way. She has made no very strong demonstration of sympathy for either party. All we get from her, is a confirmation of our former belief that her conduct, within certain rules of honor which are recognized as constituting a part of the international code, she will follow her interests. There is no evidence that she will sacrifice her business prosperity for the sake of gratifying her philanthropy. She never did it, and will never do it. Other nations are not in the habit of it; and on the face of the earth there is not a nation that loves itself better than England loves England. She never wilfully sacrifices her commercial interests.— Common sense must teach us that England cannot afford to witness the forcible abolition of slavery in this country. Should we attempt it, she would certainly protest against it; and the probability is, that she would at once interfere to prevent it.

The English government is only *safe* while the English people are *prosperous*. It has no power to *assert* its existence against starvation. It is dependent upon commerce and heavy taxation of its subjects, for its daily bread. When its manufactories are closed, and its ships lie idle at the wharves, it is in constant danger of annihilation. When the people get hungry, the danger is increased. It is perhaps unfortunate for England that she is dependent on this country for cotton. Since the American colonies obtained their independence, she has tried many experiments and expended large sums in the endeavor to procure cotton elsewhere; but her experiments have not been successful. Her chief supply is still from our Southern States; and the quantity which she calls for, is yearly increasing. It requires no extraordinary powers of vision to perceive that the instant abolition of slavery in the South, would arrest the exportation of cotton, and leave the manufactories of England to lie idle for many years. Even if the butchery and extermination of the whites did not follow at once, we might at least safely predict the almost total suspension of business, and such a reduction of the quantity of cotton produced, as would leave none to be sent abroad. Of course, if we could abolish slavery and subjugate the South, we could also prevent the exportation of cotton; and England is not so blind as to fail to perceive that we should supply our own mills before supplying hers.

We need not say that we look upon those who clamor for the forcible abolition of slavery, as our own worst enemies. Their policy would bring certain ruin to New England, as well as great injury to Old England. Even if slavery could be abolished without destruction to the local governments of the South, and the introduction of complete anarchy where now is order, we could not hope to see the change followed by the production of the great Southern staple in such quantities as would be needed to keep even our own mills in motion.

To gratify these clamorers, then, would be both criminal and suicidal. We have no serious fear that they will be gratified; but we think the people should understand what consequences would follow the adoption of their policy, and what sort of patriotism actuates them. They either do not understand their own proposition, or they are base men. They either lack political sagacity, or they are sadly deficient in moral principle.