

The War Begun.

The inexorable logic of events has at length brought the country to the verge of war, and it now becomes us to look the matter squarely and calmly in the face. The Administration of the Confederate States have done all that men could honorably do to bring about a peaceable solution of the questions which have arisen between this government and the one at Washington, but through the madness and perversity of the ruling powers at the North all efforts to that end have failed. We have asked nothing at the hands of Mr. Lincoln to which we were not fairly entitled. He has chosen to turn a deaf ear to our requests, to insult our government by refusing to receive its commissioners, and he has now taken the fearful responsibility of inaugurating a war the end of which no man can see or predict.

Our hands are free from the guilt of bringing upon the country the horrors which necessarily attend a bloody struggle between those who have heretofore been members of one common government. If, therefore, the language of diplomacy is to give place to the clashing of swords, the roar of hostile cannon, and the mustering of charging squadrons, on the heads of Black Republicans let the direful consequences rest. Deeply impressed with the conviction that their cause is a righteous one; knowing well their immense moral and physical strength; placing a firm reliance on the favor and protection of Almighty God, our people will accept the issue thus forced upon them—meet steel with steel, and drive the dastard invaders from our soil, or perish nobly in the attempt.

Who can doubt the result of a struggle between the two countries when the motives inciting the people of each to action are fairly considered? On the side of the Confederate States, we see a people united, enthusiastic, determined—with leaders and statesmen second to none in the world in point of experience and ability, and with thousands and tens of thousands of as brave men as ever lived, well trained to the use of arms. The people of the whole country will feel that they are fighting for their homes, their wives and children, and what deeds are too daring for a people thus inspired? They will, they must be invincible. They can never be conquered. A sufficient force might exterminate but never subdue them.

On the other hand the people of the Northern States are not and can never be fully united in the maintenance of a war policy. It is diametrically opposed to their interests. Mr. Lincoln's administration may succeed in arousing some enthusiasm among the people of that section on the plea that the Northern government is not fighting for conquest, but to maintain the integrity of the Union. Reasoning men, however, will ere long see that this pretense of fighting for the Union is a sham—that it is hopelessly divided, and whatever the issue of the conflict may be, the broken parts can never again be reunited. When once fully convinced of this; feeling in the depths of their own hearts that the South has the right of the matter; that the country is fast going to destruction, and that they themselves are being involved in the general ruin, they will be very likely to say to Mr. Lincoln and his fanatical followers: "Call off your dogs." Although they may not secure by this a cessation of hostilities, yet the mere fact that a not inconsiderable portion of the people do not cordially support the government in its war measures will greatly tend to dispirit those who are engaged in their unholy warfare.

When the experiment of forcing the South to live under a government which it detests, and which it has deliberately declared its determination never to submit to, has been fully tested, then Northern men will see that they have everything to lose and nothing to gain by a continuance of war, and they will begin to clamor for peace. On the other hand the people of the Confederate States, while they deprecate the calamities of war as much as any, and would gladly see all our difficulties adjusted without a resort to arms, yet knowing full well that a successful termination is absolutely essential to their national existence; aware that if they fail, an attempt will be made to brand them as traitors, and in that event be compelled to submit to a worse than Austrian despotism, they will fight, and to the death if need be, for that which they value more than life itself—their independence and their honor.

The people of the Confederate States have deliberately withdrawn from the old Union, and established a government of their own. They could no longer safely or honorably remain in union with the people of the North, and they deliberately sundered the ties which bound them together. For thus daring to assert their rights as freemen, the fanatics who control the government at Washington seem disposed to test their own strength, and, if possible, again wield their bloody sceptre over an unwilling people. While we were with them they cursed us, vilified us, and endeavored to injure us in every way possible, but when our people were finally aroused to assert and maintain our manhood, they endeavor to make us return to the Union from which their diabolical interference had driven us.—For that purpose they have persisted in holding forts in our borders to overawe and hold our people in check; they have sent an armed fleet of plunderers into our waters to blockade our ports, injure our commerce, and pollute our soil with their foul presence. We have asked but our rights. We simply desired to be left alone, to conduct our own government free from abolition meddlesomeness. History will yet record the fact that the South was compelled to fight for the privilege of living alone and minding its own business. It will be a record honorable to the South, a disgrace to the North.—The historian can briefly say, and with entire truth, that a portion of the United States wronged another portion, until those wrongs became unendurable, and then fought the people of the injured section for plunder and conquest. He may also add that the Northern people failed of success, and in failing ruined themselves and section.

The people of the Confederate States are ready for the conflict. From every vale and mountain side armed men will spring up as if by magic, and the first bugle blast of war will call them forth to the field, ready to die for their country. Armed in the holy cause of liberty and independence, they can appeal with confidence to the God of Battles for support, and who can doubt that victory will perch upon their banners? We may be compelled to endure the horrors of a long and desperate war, to wade through seas of blood, but the right must ultimately triumph.