

the negro was still held in bondage in the colonies. The great voice of the people was again heard, and the cry was—Let all the oppressed forever go free. But justice, never works at cross purposes, nor suicidally destroys itself. If the slave had his rights, so had the planters. They held their slaves by the sanction of the government. It no doubt had the power to declare every slave free, at least in the crown colonies. But this would have been manifest injustice.

Burdened with an enormous debt and greatly oppressed with taxes, the British people, as an act of justice, agreed to pay for the manumission of every slave in her world wide dominions. Men of other nations did not know what to make of this. Indeed, they made everything of it which selfishness could guess at, but the right thing—an act of sacred justice to all parties. The act was absolutely too grand for the clearest sighted politicians that go by expediency. It was such an act of self denying justice, as will be sought for in vain in the annals of the world. You cannot do it—it is mere romance—you cannot emancipate your slaves. You cannot afford the expense, and besides, you will destroy your sugar colonies and do all other kinds of mischief—cried many heartless and selfish opponents of the scheme. But all this, whether truth or falsehood had to be set aside, simply because eternal justice forbade its being listened to. Eternal justice said, do the right thing. Do your duty, let the oppressed go free and pay the twenty millions. The people listened to this and paid it. And the thing was done, and not a slave was found throughout the whole Empire. But what unjust and selfish men saw and could not understand. Angels saw and understood it well, and rejoiced over it, and God approved it; and the British people went to bed that night and slept as men do, who have a clear conscience. Many nations have equalled Britain in arms, and many have surpassed here in diplomacy; but here is a thing the like of which was never done by any of them.

III.—*The affairs of the Trent also shewed that the British Government makes justice its grand principle.*

War is now, and has been for a long time very hateful to Britain. Partly because she is a highly commercial country; but chiefly because war is the most irrational way of putting