

England dare not repudiate, and he finally held her up to the world as a "pauper." And all this was to inspire us with a sense of her absolute weakness. But, to deepen that impression still more—to remove all dread of England to an infinite distance, he told us that "England was as feeble as an unborn infant." And by way of stating a fact, which genius only was equal to, described to us this infant as "reposing in the lap of the past."

Then the Senator from Illinois asked us what there is about a war with England to frighten us? Could it be her navy? Give us but twelve months' notice, (and this we shall have by the treaty,) and we should have a larger navy than England ever had. Thank God for that! And then, I suppose, that if all the other European Powers should unite their naval power with that of England, give us two years' notice and we will create a navy greater than the whole. But how is this navy of ours to be obtained? By converting our New York liners into frigates. No doubt the Senator believed this statement to be perfectly correct; as also his further statement that there was not one of those vessels but would be a full match for a British frigate! And, as for steamers, he informed us that though we had none quite so large as those lately built in England, yet we could make ours go twenty-seven miles an hour, which, I suppose, would be a very great advantage, either in running after an enemy or running away from him! It is strange that Senators here, with all their opportunities to know the true condition of things, and our actual relation to the power of other nations, can utter, gravely, from their places in this chamber, things so monstrous to all common sense. Without any intention to speak with disparagement of the opinions of these gentlemen, I cannot but remark that what I consider a better opinion has been expressed by the Senator from Michigan; (Mr. Cass,) and the Senator from New York, (Mr. Dix,) when they told us that England never was prepared to strike a heavier blow than at this moment, and that there is no nation on the globe whose power is greater, or whom it would be more dangerous for us to encounter. But, says the Senator from Illinois, let the war come; she can do us no harm; we may lose a few merchant ships, and I think he said a few sloop-of-war, but they would be easily replaced. No doubt the Senator really thinks the fact to be so. "No harm!" Has he taken into his estimate the oceans of blood that will be spilt? the agonies of the battle-field? the shrieks of the dying? the still more terrific shrieks of widows and orphans? the corruption of the public morals? the arrest of civilization? the outrages on humanity? Will the Senator say that these are no great evils, and that these things can "easily be replaced?" The Senator from New York who last spoke (Mr. Dickinson) told us, however, that there were women enough to bind up our wounds. Ay, but there are no women who can bring back the dead. No touch of a weeping wife will avail to bring back her husband from the grave. And no power short of the divine influence of Christianity, and that exerted through a long series of years, can restore us to a proper and elevated sense of moral obligation. No valor can bring back to their original prosperity and brightness our desolated and blackened coasts, our ravaged cities, and, above all, promptly place us, where God intended we should be, really and truly at peace with our fellow-men.

I am bold to say—and I say it in no spirit of depreciation of the valor of my countrymen: I say it with a full conviction that they are equal to any emergency—that let war come upon us because we have refused our own terms, offered by us over and over again, and the responsibility of those