

number of her institutions; but the means taken to gain the extinction of slavery in America were not those dictated by a sound policy, as the sequel up to the present has already shown. The South has amply testified to the world both her capacity to govern herself, and maintain her independence. No effort has been left untried to subdue her; and to-day, after four years of carnage and destruction, the contending powers find themselves in the same relative positions as the day when the first gun boomed from the battlements of Fort Sumter. The Northerners, forgetful of the noble example of the Greeks, when their liberties were threatened by the Persian legions, declared that they would not owe their liberty to their slaves, refused to put arms in their hands, and determined to die gloriously, or be freed by their own valour. These Northerners of the nineteenth century proclaimed the liberty of the Southern slaves, and gave encouragement to the most hideous of strifes of servile insurrection.

The North has undoubtedly entered upon a war of subjugation. How the contest may eventuate, we know not. But judging from the antecedents of the contending parties, and the nature of the causes of dispute, it can be easily seen that the South has always acted on the defensive, —has always acted with spirit tempered with moderation. Every effort has been made by her to obviate hostilities, to put an end to the daily slaughter, and effect the return of peace. But all her overtures have been rejected.

And are we then to witness a war of extermination or subjugation? Even supposing that the North succeeded in subjugating the South, which God forbid! what then? Does she intend to drag the South into an unwilling union, or to treat her as a conquered Province? Or does