

"fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible  
"and pray to the same God and each invokes His aid against  
"the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare  
"to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from  
"the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we  
"may not be judged. The prayer of both could not be answered;  
"that of neither has been fully answered. The Almighty  
"has His own purposes. 'Woe unto the world because of  
"offenses, for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe  
"to that man by whom the offense cometh.' If we shall  
"suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which,  
"in the providence of God, must needs come, but which,  
"having continued through His appointed time, He now wills  
"to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this  
"terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom this offense  
"come, shall we discern therein any departure from those  
"divine attributes which the believers in a living God always  
"ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope—fervently do we  
"pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass  
"away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth  
"piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of  
"unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood  
"drawn from the lash shall be paid by another drawn with  
"the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it  
"must be said, 'The judgments of the Lord are true and  
"righteous altogether.'

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with  
"firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us  
"strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's  
"wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle,  
"and for his widow, and for his orphan, to do all which may  
"achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves,  
"and with all nations."

I do not know how you regard it, but it seems to me that  
these last words sound the loftiest note that could be struck  
in politics.

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have just one more word  
to say and I will conclude. This is a world of evolution.