

inclusive of that the *just heart* of the British people. I do mean, and have all along meant through this discussion that, John Bull has essentially a just heart and an honest conscience. It is most true, he stutters out at times a blundering piece of nonsense, or seeming injustice through his *organs of speech*—his Parliament and Press—yet when you lay your hand on his heart, you find no spasms—no indications of heart disease, but a full healthy beat of just and honest intentions. Nor should it escape notice that, these are very extensive and go very far. He is just to his friends and just to his foes; just to the great and powerful and very just to the *weak and oppressed*. This is truly noble. For while the heart of a great people is just and wise under a representative government, things cannot go far wrong. Yet I do by no means think that this justice is perfect. There is no perfectly just man, far less a perfectly just government. What I plead for is, that the highest exemplification of public justice is to be found in that government, and among that people. Indeed, there is so much of the popular voice now heard in the government of Great Britain, that the sense of justice in the people must come out in the acts of the government. But the extension of the franchise, must, by no means be regarded as the commencement of the reign of justice in the government. Long before that event this national characteristic was strongly felt. Had it not been so, instead of a Reform Bill there would have been a wild and bloody revolution. Still it is very worthy of notice that, the large infusion of the popular element has not lessened, but greatly strengthened a sense of justice in the legislature. This clearly proves that the *heart* of the people, when the thing on which they act is fully known, is just. But now in order to bring out clearly what is meant by British justice, I select a few instances for illustration.

1. *The stoppage of the slave trade.*

For many years, like other maritime nations, Great Britain took part in this traffic, and shared largely in its profits. I need not dwell on the enormities of the slave trade. It is enough to say that, in the whole history of human crimes there is nothing more flagrantly unjust. It tore human beings from their native land without the least shadow of any offence, committed by them.