

Fort Warren, or Fort LaFayette, or some other delectable receptacle for "rebels" against the mild sway of "Northern Justice." In point of fact, it was a most signal Providence which opened a door for me in Canada, or I, and my little helpless family might have been driven away from our home, and exposed to absolute privation and want. This would inevitably have been the result of our being sent within the Southern lines, where (thanks to the "just cause") every article of food and clothing would be utterly beyond the means of one whose sole support was derived from the coagulation from which he was thus threatened to be violently severed. Would the rector of "Washford Pyne" like to furnish us an illustration of "Northern justice" in its own proper person?

Further, I have long been deprived of my books and furniture—not many, nor much, but *my all*. They have been shut up in the city of —, Virginia, where, at the breaking out of the war, and for twelve months after, I resided as incumbent of — church. (In what I dare say the rector of "Washford Pyne" would call a culpable if not immoral connexion with that "reb'l" body, the Protestants Episcopal Church in the Confederate States of America. Now "the just cause" will permit nothing to be removed from thence by any one except such as have taken the oath of allegiance; and since, if I know myself, I would not take that oath to save my life, much less my books, these latter may be safely regarded as in jeopardy. It might be thought that a British subject could claim his goods and chattels; but, my experience of the protection afforded to her Majesty's liege subjects by her deputies within the jurisdiction of "Northern justice" gives me little heart to apply. Now I could almost wish that the admiration of the rector of "Washford Pyne" for "the just cause" were subjected to some such test as this. How would he like to have his easy chairs, and his sprightly lounges, and his downy beds, and his much prized folios, and his valued quartos, and his newest octavos, and duodecimos—not to talk of the efforts of his private genius—shut up within the bristling lines of Yankee bayonets? I fancy it would be an *experimentum crucis* which would "put a new song in his mouth."

I have dwelt thus long on my personal experience, as I conceive it to be a kind of *argumentum ad hominem* which the rector of "Washford Pyne" cannot fail to appreciate.

But my experience is not only personal. From the date of the burning of the navy yard at Norfolk, on the nineteenth of April, 1861, to within six weeks of the present date, I was a close observer of the conduct of the war in Virginia. May I not therefore claim to be a better judge of "The justice of the

cause of the North" than Mr. Hole can possibly be? He sees and hears at second hand, more than three thousand miles away, seated in his comfortable rectory, *I was on the spot, and ecce signum!*

If invading, pillaging, burning, and destroying the homes and properties of non-combatants, old men, women, and children—if this be the legitimate province of a "just cause" then do the Northern hordes of cut-throats and ruffians stand acquitted and approved. But, at the same time, may not poor Virginia hold up her hands to high heaven, and protest against such justice?

If attempting to force a government which, in the estimation of eight millions of human beings, is the most odious and detestable the world has ever known—if *this* be conceded to "The justice of the cause of the North," then in the name of all that is fair, liberal, honorable and righteous, I ask Mr. Hole to define his idea of "a just cause." Has he forgotten that the Northern Government itself stands (or used to stand, until Abraham Lincoln, and his minions, established their low, and crushing tyranny) upon the will of the governed? Does he not know that it was upon this very ground that their boastful claim was founded of being "the best government on earth"? And does he not perceive the glaring inconsistency of attempting to force a government of this kind upon a people who spurn it with contempt and abhorrence? Nay, does he not perceive the atrocity of endeavouring to compass their ends by fire, and sword, and carnage? Shame, upon the justice-loving Englishman who talks of "the justice of the cause" that carries war, and devastation, havoc and ruin to the hearths and firesides of those whose only request is to be "Let alone!"

Mr. Hole intimates his wish to show that the English clergy are not "so universally on the side of the South." He is an exception. Let us hope that he stands alone, or nearly alone, in his sympathies; and that the *bulk* of Englishmen, church and lay, have not outlived their keen sense of right, of justice, and of humanity.

But, to return to matters of observation. I have known of helpless women and children being deprived of the very necessities of life—actually left without a breakfast—by the pillaging and plundering hordes who maintain, in the field, "The justice of the cause of the North." And I have known that, from this oppression, there was little or no redress, even by appeal to the highest officers. The highest officers themselves very, very frequently, act the example. There was a General Blenker, for example, so notorious for his thefts and robberies that "blenkering"