While awaiting such an overt act, it would give the President the right to employ military force (if it could be created!), which the attack upon Fort Sumter at length was. Was nothing accomplished? Mr Lincoln and his Cabinet, knowing better than all others the difficulties which surrounded them, may be supposed also to know better than others how to meet them. That they have seen fit to keep their plans to themselves, notwithstanding the outcry of the Press, both at home and abroad, may possibly, upon reflection, be thought wise and prudent! They have the responsibility, and can hardly be in duty bound to ask the advice of newspaper writers. But, "during that period of culpable inactivity," was nothing accomplished?

Was it nothing to purge the civil Administration, and free the Government from the instant danger of being thwarted at every step by its own servants? Nothing to replenish the treasury and inspire confidence, which drew from capitalists means beyond the present necessity? Nothing to create an army in a few weeks, long since sufficient for the defence of the capital (sixty miles from the nearest Free State) and the long border---and now strong enough to assume the offensive if Congress shall so order? Nothing to recreate the navy, so as to establish the sufficient blockade of most of the ports along the vast extent of the Slave State coast?

"Six months of the most pitiable vacillation and uncertainty" has been charged upon Mr. Lincoln's Administration; it has been said, "as long as this lasted, the Government of Mr. Lincoln had really no policy---at least, none to which it dared give any practical effect." Now, is it generous, truthful, just, thus to visit Mr. Buchanan's sins upon the head of his successor? The spontaneous response to Mr. Lincoln's proclamation, issued at the earliest possible moment, from all classes at the North, political friends and foes alike, is sufficient answer.*

* The New York Herald affords a curious indication of the strength and universality of the Union sentiment at the North. That paper opposed the election of Buchanan, but became a supporter of his

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