

—have we any hope of being righted by the South? Has or has not the South any claims upon us beside those which the North once might have had, but has now thrown away? Have rebels and slave-owners any demands at all on that sympathy which England will never manifest save in a cause which has some right on its side? Have we, or have we not, any obligation or interest, sooner or later, to form an alliance with the South? These are questions which can only be solved by looking at the matter, in the first instance, with somewhat of an American eye.

You will be prepared, I dare say, for the first point upon which I intend to insist. I hope to offer to you considerations which tend to prove that it is a mistake in terms to call the South "rebels." The fact is they are no more rebels than we were rebels in 1688, and less than the Americans were who fought under Washington in the early days of George III. The latter could only take the field on the terms of abjuring that personal allegiance which is incidental to the subjects of even a limited monarchy, but which 1688 proved might be abjured. In a republic such as the late American, there is no such personal allegiance, but every citizen is co-sovereign.

You may be surprised, however, when I tell you what is the second point for which I am going to contend. It is that, hating as I do in common with all my countrymen, from the bottom of my heart, that detestable system of slavery, wishing to see slavery extinct on the American continent as it is already on every inch of ground over which the British flag waves, I honestly and entirely believe that the cause which will tend to the confirmation of all the evils of slavery, is that of the North, and that the cause which is most likely to prove