

clamours of his enemies about personal freedom, he insisted upon conscription, believing that by these means alone the Union would be saved. And what was the result? A section of the press foamed with indignation. Mobs yelled, demonstrated, and in their illogical fury lynched negroes, seeing in these unfortunates the cause of all their troubles. But the mobs were not the American people. They were only a noisy and contemptible minority of the American people, whose importance as well as courage had been vastly over-rated. The quiet people were in deadly earnest, and they supported their President."

Looking at our own Dominion, we can well imagine that in certain sections there would be vehement protests against anything in the nature of conscription, and party politicians, afraid of losing votes, would object to the putting in force of the Militia Act of Canada (as to which see ante vol. 51, p. 428), placed on the Statute Book by our wise and patriotic forefathers. Its having been placed there in those days, and continuing there to the present time, is perhaps prophetic or at least suggestive of its wisdom; and those who are weary of the voluntary system and its constant breakdowns may wish for a little more of the spirit that animated our United Empire Loyalists, and that our leaders might exercise some of the force and courage and faith in the common sense of the people, that dwelt in Abraham Lincoln, "one of the greatest, noblest, and most human men in the whole of history," in his daring action, which tested, almost to the breaking point, the mettle of the Northern States in their struggle for freedom and the integrity of their Commonwealth.

Dealing with the question of the need of men—where and how to get them—the author's scornful words come home to us. Speaking of Lord Kitchener's perplexities, and the hindrances to his work, owing to the cobwebs of the party system, he puts the views of the advocates of the voluntary system and a summary of what their answer to Lord Kitchener might have been, in these words: "Put your trust in us, and we will get you the men. We will go on shouting. We will paste up larger and large pictures on the hoardings. We will fill whole pages of the