

of the brighter and more hopeful points connected with it. Hitherto it has been the custom for rulers to involve their nations in war to gratify personal animosities, or serve some other personal ends. But the tardiness and the evident reluctance of British statesmen to engage in this war, exhausting the patience of the people by continued negotiations for peace, shows that it was undertaken only as a terrible necessity. Moreover, in aiding Turkey against her gigantic and grasping foe, Britain and France strive on the side of humanity. They have distinctly pledged themselves by treaty not to augment their own territories thereby. That vast empire of Russia is the colossal type of absolutism, and the implacable enemy of free ideas. These great nations throw their forces in the way of its southward march, as protectors of European freedom and civilization. A conflict of ideas is involved in this bloody war. In the triumph of Russia, absolutism is triumphant, and liberty depressed. In the defeat of Russia, human freedom gains a victory, for despotism is shorn of so much prestige and power. I know not how victory may go at this present juncture. But for the ultimate triumph of freedom, justice and humanity, I have no fear. I have no fear, for I have faith in God.

When we look from Europe to this side of the Atlantic, we see the cause of liberty and humanity temporarily depressed in a land called free. While in Europe imperial ambition has been mustering its forces to push one form of despotism southward, we have seen in America republican cupidity mustering its forces to push another form of despotism northward. The struggle was violent and protracted on the Congress floor at Washington, but the legions of slavery at last carried the posts of freedom. The