

of European Governments? Certainly not. But suppose they should thus consider it: is it certain that the great principles of equality of rights—the great principles of our “system” of Government, if you please—have not found a dwelling in the bosom of a majority of the people of Europe? Is it probable that the crowned heads of Europe would rush to an uncalled-for attack upon our heaven-born “system,” without counting strictly the numbers at home for and against our principles of Government? Is it certain, that a majority of the people of Europe would be willing to imbue their hands in our blood, in order to break down our system of Government, and maintain one at home, which is a curse to their homes, and a hell to their hopes? Sir, never, never will the people of Europe entertain a contest so disgraceful. Let not Britain “lay the flattering unction to her soul,” that the brave and generous sons of the Emerald Isle, whose civil and religious liberties have been trampled under foot for more than a century, will be found aiding in a crusade against us, and against our country’s standard, around which every son of Erin in this land would rally, eager to avenge the wrongs of their fathers. They know their friends; they know the people who have clasped to their bosoms thousands of their kindred, welcoming them to the “land of the free and the home of the brave.” They know too well who has robbed and plundered them for ages, to enter the field against a people and a land where their oppressed and persecuted sons have found friends and a home. But why talk of European interference, when we all know that almost every Power there has been robbed and plundered by England. Would those Governments turn and “lick the hand that smote them?” Would they enter a contest in which they cannot hope to gain, but must lose immensely? Would not France, Holland, Belgium, Prussia, and every other manufacturing district of Europe, be immensely benefited by a war between England and the United States? A moment’s reflection would convince any one that such would necessarily be the case. I have no fears, then, of European interference. Give them the dollars and cents, and the fighting will be left to England alone.

France only waits another war between England and the United States, to pass England in many, perhaps all branches of manufactures, and to repossess herself of those possessions of which she has been robbed by this common plunderer of the world. And where France is, there will Belgium also be. Their feelings are identical; the blood of their Sovereigns are blended; the hearts of their people beat in unison. Holland, too—once the mistress of the ocean, carrying a broom at her mast-head, as indicative that she swept the sea; now, a mere remnant of her former greatness—will not be found an ally of the Power that stood calmly by, and witnessed her dismemberment; nor will she fail to countenance any measure calculated to cripple her great rival in manufactures. Does any person believe that any of the petty Princes of the German States will be seduced to lend their aid to England? Do not gentlemen know that the people of those States are anxiously waiting such an opportunity as a war between England and the United States would afford them, to throw off the yoke under which they are now groaning? No

people in all Europe are more attached to the pure principles of Republicanism, than they are; nor are any more thoroughly prepared for the important task of self-government.

But how stands the question of interference against our “system,” with reference to the great Autocrat of all the Russias? Have we anything of an unfriendly character to apprehend from that quarter? Will he forget the management of Lord Russell on the Bosphorus, by which he was prevented from extending his power and domain to the fairest part of Turkey? No, those acts, those intrigues, will not be forgotten. We have everything to hope for, but nothing to fear, in that quarter. In a struggle with England, I should, with great confidence look to Russia as an ally, if we needed one; and if war should come, and that war be a “world’s war,” as some believe, I doubt not that Russia will be found side by side with this glorious Union. Much as has been said against the Emperor Nicholas, I declare to you, sir, that I have more confidence in the honor and integrity of that potentate, than in any other of the crowned heads of Europe. Not that I approve of his numerous deeds of violence against the principles of national liberty; far be that from me. But when the head of a nation acts openly, boldly, and fearlessly, as he does, I am always disposed to give some credit for honesty of purpose, and never despair of such Sovereigns coming to a just sense of the relative rights of the sovereign people and their servants.

We have also been reminded that danger is to be apprehended from Mexico—that she may seek to avenge her imaginary wrongs. Having treated her fairly and honorably, we shall look for similar treatment from her. If, however, she is disposed to be further duped by England, and shall make an attack upon us, we shall let out the management of her case by the job; and as the State of Texas has had some experience in that line of business, having executed some excellent “jobs” at San Jacinto, and other places, she will undoubtedly be eager for the contract; and to them I doubt not it will be given. Texas would ask no other compensation for the management of all our difficulties with Mexico, than a portion of the small territory of California, or one or two Mexican mines.

The gentleman from Virginia warned us of the baleful influences which a war would have on the currency of our country; the tendency it would have to inundate our country with paper money; and the effect such a state of things would produce upon the morals, the trade, and commerce of the country. These objections are certainly worthy of the most profound consideration. When we look abroad in this and other countries, and behold the baleful influences of paper money upon every people where it has or does exist; witnessing the wide-spread ruin it has brought upon the masses; heaping wealth on the few, whilst it beggars the many; controlling and corrupting the ballot-box; subsidizing the press; corrupting the halls of legislation; defiling the judiciary; spurning the law;—when we see all this accomplished by the power of paper money, we should guard with great care the influence which our acts here might have upon this potent agent. But, sir, much as I fear this paper-money engine of corruption, yet my confidence in the honesty and patriotic