

Elsewhere he may pursue his human prey ; he may employ his congenial bloodhounds, and exult in his successful game! but into these domains of Freedom he must not come. And this public opinion, with liberty as its watchword, must proclaim, not only the overthrow of the Slave Bill, but also the overthrow of the Slave Oligarchy behind—the two pressing duties of the North essential to our own emancipation ; and believe me, Sir, while they remain undone, nothing is done.

“ Mr. President, far already have I trespassed upon your generous patience ; but there are other things which still press for utterance. Something would I say of the arguments by which our Enterprise is commended ; something also of the appeal it makes to men of every condition ; and something also of union, as a vital necessity, among all who love Freedom.

“ I know not if our work can be soon accomplished. I know not, Sir, if you or I can live to see in our republic the vows of the fathers at length fulfilled, as the last fetter falls from the limbs of the last slave ; but one thing I do know, beyond all doubt or question, that this Enterprise must go on—that in its irresistible current it will sweep schools, colleges, churches, the intelligence, the conscience, and the religious aspirations of the land, while all who stand in its way or speak evil of it are laying up for their children, if not for themselves, days of sorrow and shame. Better to strive in this cause, even unsuccessfully, than never to strive at all.

“ There is no weapon in the celestial armoury of truth, there is no influence that ever rained from the skies, there is no generous word that ever dropped from human lips which may not be employed. Ours, too, is the argument alike of the conservative and the reformer ; for our cause stands on the truest conservatism and the truest reform. It seeks the conservation of Freedom itself and of its kindred historic principles ; it seeks also the reform of Slavery and of the kindred tyranny by which it is upheld. Religion, morals, justice, economy, the Constitution, may each and all be invoked ; and one person is touched by one argument, while another person is touched by another. You do not forget how Christopher Columbus won Isabella of Spain to his enterprise of discovery. He first presented to her the temptation of extending her dominions, but she hearkened not. He next promised to her the dazzling wealth of the Indies ; and still she hearkened not. But when, at last, was pictured to her pious imagination the poor heathen with souls to be saved, then the youthful Queen poured her royal jewels into the lap of the Genoese adventurer, and at her expense that small fleet was sent forth which gave to Spain and to mankind a new world.

“ As in this Enterprise there is a place for every argument,