

hope better things, however, even of our enemies. But on these accounts, considering our situation, and the usual maxims of warfare, have we not reasons for serious apprehension ?

Of these twelve hundred thousand slaves, more than eleven hundred thousand are owned in the southern section of the Union. One third of the whole population of the Southern States are slaves ! For many generations, their blood and their stripes have been crying to heaven for vengeance. And from the general method of providence in administering distributive justice, have we not reason to conclude, that God will ere long avenge them of their cruel oppressors ? Doubtless they will be avenged. And who knows but the time is just at hand ; and that the present war may afford an opportunity, when a righteous God will permit them to rise and shake off their yoke ? Most horrible would be the scenes of rapine and carnage. I shudder at the thought.

Such, my brethren, are some of the circumstances, which render a bloody warfare, and the present in particular, peculiarly distressing to every enlightened and benevolent mind. The evils are very imperfectly depicted. But in view even of *this* portraiture, is not every one who has proper feelings on the solemn subject, ready to exclaim with the prophet in the text, *My bowels, my bowels ! I am pained at my very heart ; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.*

FROM our subject it clearly appears, that no nation ought ever to wage war with another nation, without the most absolute necessity, and after the failure of every other means for obtaining justice and preserving peace, which equity and religion dictate.

A war must be *just*, and it must be *necessary*, or all the blood that is spilt in it, and all the tremendous evils which attend and follow it, will be chargeable upon its authors and abettors ; and at their hands a