

or No Slavery lies at the bottom of some of the most vital political moves of the day. It is to rivet their superiority, or at least to form themselves into a powerful dominion, that the Southern States steadily, though cautiously, agitate for the occupation of Cuba;* it is to secure the triumph of the Free system that the North longs for the annexation of Canada. It is not a little due to this opposition of interests that the indolent Dons still hold possession of the Queen of the Antilles; and, after the California debate, it is beyond all question that the voice of the South would be vehemently raised against any attempt to annex the British Provinces.

Although, in theory, the federal compact is a voluntary union of sovereign States, which may be dissolved whenever even one of them thinks its interest will be promoted by the separation; yet, when an emergency arrives, the majority, if large, may be expected to resist such a separation by force of arms. Such, at least, is the common impulse of mankind in like circumstances; and such in fact was the avowed expectation of many even in the Northern States whom Mr. Johnston heard speak upon the subject. 'It amused me,' he says, 'to hear men in one breath talk of annexing Canada and Nova Scotia, and threaten vengeance against the traitor States which should break up the integrity of the Union?' Will there be an armed struggle between the North and South? And if so, may not the exigencies of such a contest demand a Dictator instead of a President—nay, gradually rear up a royalty in the chosen domain of democracy? This is peculiarly probable with respect to the Southern States, both from the naturally aristocratic feelings of the people, and from the greater peril of their position—exposed alike to hostility without and treachery within—to the hatred, open or disguised, of White and Black. Will there be that horror of horrors, a servile war? Profiting by the strife of rival States, will the Negroes battle their way to freedom, and establish an African Government amid the sons of Japhet? Never, in our day, unless aided by the Northerners; and dare the New Englanders fight with such a poisoned

we were a part, and at the glorious sun, our blessed Union, around which we all revolve. But the "fair young form with flashing gems" shining around her brow has taken her seat among the starry sisterhood; and her presence, free, untrammelled, and *unprejudiced*, must have a soothing effect upon the passions of her separated sisters.'

* Peradventure the grand sable *Empire* itself is not exempt from danger. 'If Hayti gets into a collision with the United States,' says an American paper, in reference to a recent and perhaps still pending disagreement, 'it will be a serious matter for Faustin, as there are several old scores that will be wiped out at the same time.' The inhabitants of a country are not always of immediate value to a conqueror; but the slave gentry of the Southern States would find a mint of money in St. Domingo.

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