

matters to right when they have gone wrong. But much as she hates war, she was prepared for it with all its consequences, a few years ago on what has been called the Trent affair.

It happened in this wise—Two southern commissioners wished to go to Europe. They had taken passage on a British trading steamer, called the Trent. This vessel was waylaid by an American ship of war, and the Commissioners were taken. Great were the rejoicings, and many were the high flown compliments paid to the bold captain who was not afraid to take the British Lion by the beard. Loud boastings and threats were heard on all hands through the Northern States. But all this had soon to take end. Great Britain had no special love for these commissioners, nor their cause, nor indeed had she any reason. These men had most villainously abused her on the question of slavery. But then, they were taken from one of her trading vessels, in violation of the plainest laws of nations, and of course in violation of *justice*. There was no hesitation as to what should be done. The order was calmly but peremptorily given—these men must be set at liberty. Hatred and amazement filled the whole Northern States. A cry of astonishment was heard—will Great Britain go to war for two men who have always hated her and abused her? Yes, she will; for these two or any two in like circumstances. For as a British statesman remarked, she would do the very same thing for two of their slaves unjustly taken from one of her ships. We can all remember—and it was right noble how the whole empire arose and shook itself, putting its fleets and armies in motion, and awaited the issue of war, on the *sole* principle that injustice cannot pass unpunished.

Nor is this a solitary instance of the kind. She has on more than one occasion drawn the sword for individuals whose rights were imperilled with her own, and when justice required, that she should stand up for the defenceless. It was once said, impiously enough, that God is always on the side that has most cannon and cavalry. Not so—God is really on the side of the nation that has most of justice, and never fights but in a just cause. His power often seems slack in sustaining justice, or it comes in circuitous ways that the unjust dream not of. But come it will, and who can abide its coming.

I shall now for a very brief space illustrate *British justice in reference to her Indian Empire*.