

an American war. For it is towards war that you are now driving. You are doing your utmost to facilitate the escape of the Confederate iron-clads from the Mersey. One of the most eminent of your number has given notice of a motion in Parliament, evidently having this end in view. And if these vessels are allowed to go out, you do not doubt, I presume, that there will be war. Indeed you must be conscious that bare recognition, the ostensible object of your Association, would be futile, or rather would enrage the Federals, and determine them to persevere. Suppose Ireland were in rebellion, what effect would the recognition of the insurgent government by a foreign power, say France, produce on the temper of the English nation? Would it make us more willing to yield the victory to the insurgents, and to acquiesce in the disruption of our empire?

The course taken by the Government has unfortunately been such as to give the attempts of your Southern friends and their allies to embroil us with the Federals a very fair chance of success. They have declined to take their stand on the firm ground of international duty, which plainly forbids us, as professed neutrals, to allow either belligerent to make our shores the base of his maritime operations, and have taken their stand instead on the ground of municipal law, which is wholly irrelevant as between nations, while, at the same time, they have shrunk from amending the municipal law in the manner required in order to render it equal to the present need. The consequence is, apparently, that only the law's delay (a