

"There has been much criticism in this country on the manner in which the civil war has been conducted by the Americans. We have been prompt to condemn a people, over whom we have no control, for acts for which we are in no wise responsible. I remember the indignation with which the Prime Minister denounced General Butler's proclamation, in which he threatened to consign to the calaboose those women who should insult his soldiers in the streets of New Orleans. Will he and his colleagues now make themselves and the country accomplices after the facts in these atrocities of their own agents, who in contemptuous disregard of the instructions of their Government, have brought this heavy disgrace upon the country? I trust not. But, at all events, let us not forget that our moral power in the world is at stake; that if as a people, we condone such crimes as these, when perpetrated in our name by those for whom, under Heaven, we are alone responsible, we shall only invite the scorn of mankind by assuming to sit in judgment, as moral censors, upon the delinquencies of other nations."

Mr. Binney, at the close of his sermon, on the last Sunday morning in November, after having preached from the last two verses in Jonah, spoke at considerable length on the subject, throwing into it all that energy and power of which he is so capable when aroused. His remarks are far too lengthy for insertion here, and we give only the conclusion:

"Such is the history of the burning of Kagosima; a hundred and twenty, some say a hundred and eighty thousand people, without a word of warning, or an opportunity of escape, suddenly find shot and shell falling around them; terrific explosions stattle and terrify, maim and destroy; one half of the city is burnt one day, the other half the next. Multitudes perish. It is impossible for many to be removed at all; it is inevitable that, with all their efforts, others cannot escape. Even those, however, who perish in the ruins of the city, may be envied by the survivors, in their houseless and naked and famishing condition. Looking at the facts as officially set forth, we are warranted to ask if this was what Earl Russell intended to be done; and, being done, if this is to be thought worthy of the high appreciation of her Majesty's Government.

"I am not one who believes in the immorality of all war; it may be at times a terrible necessity. I am not one to advocate our submission to national insults, or that, in cases of violence and wrong, we should not make and enforce our demands for reparation. I should like, however, to know whether the Government thinks that the second day's exploit of Admiral Kuper—when half of the town, steamers and arsenals, junks, and wharfs, had been already destroyed—whether, what he then deliberately did was, in the circumstances stated, the simple carrying out of what was meant by the words, 'he will judge whether it will be possible or advisable to shell the residence of the Prince?' I should like to know whether, if the admiral is considered to have exceeded his instructions, he is to be told so; or if the matter is not to be deemed as deserving reproof. If the Government approves and applauds, and expresses its satisfaction, I should like to know if the ground of that is, because nothing was done but what was just and humane and according to the laws of civilised warfare, and that what appears otherwise was all an 'accident?' And, finally, I should like to know—admitting the accident—an accident 'to six score thousand persons' precipitated upon them 'in the twinkling of an eye' flaming fire, devastation, and death,—I should like to know if the English nation is to accord such liberties in the use of language to naval and military men that they shall talk of such accidents in official documents—open to all the world—not only without regret, but with evident exultation, with a satisfaction, and the secret persuasion that they deserve credit, titles, and decorations, the thanks of a grateful country for being the willing and ready agents in bringing about so great a misfortune?

I make no apology for adverting to this subject this morning. I do it as an Englishman concerned for the reputation of his country—as a Christian Englishman who hears of the mitigation of the horrors of war, and is allowed to believe that even in it there can be regard had to the claims of humanity—and