

blican portion of the American continent ; and not to ascribe to design a course calculated to insure the prolongation of hostilities.

No instance in history is remembered by me in which a nation pretending to exercise dominion over another, asserting its independance, has been the first to concede the existance of such independance. No case can be recalled to my mind in which neutral powers have failed to set the example of recognizing the independance of a nation, when satisfied of the inability of its enemy to subvert its Government ; and this, too, in cases where the previous relations between the contending parties had been confessionally that of mother country and dependant colony ; not as in our case, that of co-equal States united by Federal compact. It has never been considered the proper function and duty of neutral powers to perform the office of judging whether in point of fact the nation asserting dominion is able to make good its pretensions by force of arms, and if not, by recognition of the resisting party to discountenance the further continuance of the contest. And the reason why this duty is incumbent on neutral powers is plainly apparent when we reflect that the pride and passion which blind the judgement of the parties to the conflict cause the continuance of active warfare, and consequent unless slaughter, long after the inevitable result has become apparent to all not engaged in the struggle. So long, therefore, as neutral nations fail by recognition of our independance to announce that, in their judgment, the United-States are unable to reduce the Confederacy to submission, their conduct, will be accepted by our enemies as a tacit encouragement to continue their efforts, and as an assurance that belief is entertained by neutral nations in the success of their designs. A direct stimulus, whether intentional or nor, is thus applied to securing a continuance of the carnage and devastation which desolate this continent, and which they profess deeply to deplore.