

self in the service of the most corrupt tyranny; and tyranny has been thus furnished with new opportunities of indulging its malignity and revenge; of gratifying its envy of the rich and good; of increasing its means to reward favorites, and secure retainers for the worst deeds." In 1862 they declared the penalty of treason to be death and freedom to the slaves of the traitor; or imprisonment and fine, and freedom to his slaves. But no provision has been made whereby civil and political rights were to be forfeited; and it is too late to attempt to do so now, even by constitutional amendment.

The reconstruction committee do not pretend to claim the forfeiture of civil and political rights by virtue of the Constitution and laws of the United States. For though rather inconsistently, they call the people of the late Confederate States, at one time "insurgents, rebels and traitors," and as such, of course, answerable only to the laws of the United States, yet at other times, they call them "public enemies of the United States, conquered in war," and under the Committee's interpretation of the law of Nation governing the rebels of a civil war, that not only all civil and political privileges, but even the lives, liberty and property of all those people, are at the absolute disposal of their conquerors, subject only to their ideas of the requirements of humanity, certainly, enlightened civilization and christianity have done little to relieve war of the horrible barbarities of ignorant and despotic times, if any such law is now recognized in civilized countries, as applicable to a constitutional republic.

Vattel states the law of Nations thus: "If a town which made part of a republic, or a limited monarch, and enjoyed a right of sending deputies to a Supreme Council or the General Assembly of the State, be justly conquered by an absolute monarch, she must never more think of such privileges; they are what the Constitution of the new State to which she is annexed does not permit." but the United States government has not the power or right of "an absolute monarch," nor is "a right of sending deputies to the Supreme Council or General Assembly of the States" prohibited by the Constitution of that Government.

The non-intercourse Act of 13, July, 1861, fixed the legal relations between the United States and the Confederate States. The Supreme Court of the United States in the decision of cases necessarily involving those relations and depending-upon them, expressly assert that "since that time, there has existed between the United States and the Confederate States, civil, territorial war." After the passage of the non-intercourse Act by Congress, and after the civil war existed as decided by the Supreme Court, Congress, by a unanimous vote in one House, and with but two negatives in the other, declared to the people of the United States, and to the World, the object of the war.