

feelings of mere *passion or resentment*," it would "recollect its *duty* to the *whole country*," that the war should not be waged "in any spirit of oppression, nor for any purpose of *conquest or subjugation*," nor of *overthrowing* or interfering with the *rights* or established institutions of these States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality and rights of the several States *unimpaired*, and that as soon as *these objects* are accomplished the war ought to cease." The spirit of these resolves finds a noble precedent in the history of our country. In January 1784, after the close of our revolutionary war, and immediately upon the conclusion of peace with Great Britain, the Congress of the Old Confederation unanimously passed a resolution earnestly recommending the Legislatures of the several States "to provide for the restitution of all the estates, rights and properties which have been *confiscated* belonging to British subjects," and "to reconsider and revise all their acts and laws" in this respect so as to make those laws "perfectly consistent not only with justice and equality, but *with that spirit of conciliation which, on the return of the blessings of peace, should universally prevail.*"

How different the spirit which now prevails! what strange things do we daily hear and see? The President of the United States, with patriotic zeal and unflinching energy, has faithfully struggled to follow this precedent and carry out the letter and spirit of these resolutions, but for so doing he is threatened with impeachment and deposition. The Supreme Court has decided that the Constitution, the great charter of our liberties, is a *living* instrument, that its sacred obligations are supreme over both President and Congress, and that its protecting *ægis* covers the citizen in war as well as in peace, and for so doing the Judges of that August Tribunal have been traduced and maligned as the friends of rebels and traitors, and the protectors of treason, and it is said they are to be *reorganized* out of office, or the Court itself swept away. The established and existing governments of the Southern States are assailed, and it is proposed to abolish them, and by Congressional action to reduce these States to Territories, or establish other governments over them. Their Senators and Representatives are refused admission to their seats in Congress, and, in a word, the Union is not restored, the end of war has not brought the blessings of *peace* to the Country.

For this state of things a heavy responsibility rests somewhere. I do not pretend to declare where or upon whom the blame attaches, but I do say that those, whoever they may be, or wherever found, who are obstructing the restoration of the Union and the full return of peace, who, instead of fostering the spirit of conciliation and promoting that harmony which in olden times pervaded the Republic, constantly foment hate