

Report of the
Committee.

evidence whatever of repentance for their crime, and expressing no regret except that they had no longer the power to continue the desperate struggle. The Committee then conclude that the war thus waged was a civil war of the greatest magnitude, and that by the law of nations, one of the consequences was, that within the limits prescribed by humanity, the conquered rebels were at the mercy of the conquerors.

They say the testimony is conclusive that after the collapse of the Confederacy, the feeling of the people of the rebellious States was that of abject submission. Having appealed to the tribunal of arms, they had no hope, except that by the magnanimity of their conquerors, their lives, and possibly their property, might be preserved. But the Committee found evidence of a great and sudden change in the feelings of those people. They say the general issue of pardons to persons who had been prominent in the rebellion and the feeling of kindness and conciliation manifested by the executive, and very generally indicated through the Northern press, had the effect to render whole communities forgetful of the crime they had committed, defiant towards the general Government, and regardless of their duties as citizens. The conciliatory measures of the Government do not seem to have been met even half way. The bitterness and defiance exhibited towards the United States, is without a parallel in the history of the world. In return for our leniency, we receive only an insulting denial of our authority. In return for our kind desire for the resumption of fraternal relations, we receive only an insolent assumption of rights and privileges, long since forfeited.

The conclusion of the Committee, therefore, is, that the so-called Confederate States are not, at present, entitled to representation in the Congress of the United States; that before allowing such representation, adequate security for future peace and safety should be required; that this can only be found in such changes of the organic law as shall determine the civil rights and privileges of all citizens, in all parts of the republic, and place representation on an equitable basis, shall fix a stigma on treason, and protect loyal people against