

the Union cause by their unqualified assurance, that the war should be confined to the legitimate purpose of maintaining the supremacy of the Constitution and preserving the Union. And when added to these official demonstrations we had the satisfaction of seeing, what seemed to be a wholesome revolution in the sentiment of that portion of the Northern people who had hitherto pursued an ultra course on the question of slavery, the Union men of the Border States were elated at the thought that Secession would thus be effectually stripped of its chief support, in representing the war as a crusade of abolition. These conservative indications were all that was required to unite every political element at the North in the cause of the Union, whilst they so strengthened and encouraged loyal men at the South that they have endured every species of outrage and oppression sooner than renounce their allegiance. Under the same influences, armies, such as the world never witnessed, have been enrolled and organised, and two hundred millions of money, in the course of a few months, advanced by the people to their Government.

Whilst these fruits of the wise and patriotic policy of the Administration have been hailed by loyal men everywhere as tokens of their speedy triumph, it may be easily imagined how well calculated to provoke their indignation is the attempt they have recently witnessed, on the part of certain politicians, to thwart this policy, by again complicating the cause of the Union with the question of slavery.

It will be impossible to convince conservative men that the proposed emancipation of the slaves in the seceded States, by force of the Federal arms, has any other aim than to make the success of these arms subservient to the purposes of abolition; and, so considered—if suffered to control to any extent the operations of the army—it will be equally impossible to avoid its blighting effects upon the hopeful prospects at present before us.

The unanimity with which the Northern people have rallied around the Constitution, ready to sustain it by any number of men and any amount of money, can no longer be counted on when they see that the cause to which these efforts have been consecrated is to be perverted to the purpose of a political faction; whilst, in the South, on the other hand, we must abandon at once the hope to which we have hitherto confidently clung, of assistance from that latent Union element, which undoubtedly there exists, and is only awaiting a Federal power to set it free. But the power that liberates it must be an unquestionable exercise of constitutional authority; and the slightest manifestation of a purpose to make that authority tributary to the cause of abolition would inevitably unite that latent element at once under the banner of Secession.