

pacitated from leading to good. As surely as man's nature is corrupt and the lust of power the most corrupting and insatiable of his appetites, so surely will any Government or system sink into anarchy or despotism, if committed to his arbitrary will. There is no life for liberty, but in the supreme and absolute dominion of law. The lesson is written, in letters of blood and fire, all over the history of nations. It is the moral of the annals of republics since their records began. It is legible upon the crumbling marbles of the elder world—it echoes in the strifes and revolutions of the new. Wherever men have thought great thoughts and died brave deaths for human progress, its everlasting truth has been sealed and proclaimed. It will be true—it is true—for us and for ours, as it has been for those who have preceded us, and the consequences of its violation will be upon us, as upon them, unless the Providence whom we are mocking shall break the inevitable chain which drags effect after cause. And let the people of no other section shut their eyes to the danger, because it seems to be impending over us only, and not over them. Let them not sympathize with usurpation, because its blows for the present appear aimed only at sections and individuals, whose opinions differ from their own. They know not what a day may bring forth, and they cannot measure the harvest which may spring from a seed-time of impunity in usurpation and wrong. Already the *Habeas Corpus* is suspended in New York, and the District Judge asks the pleasure of the commanding General, and yields—as if the great writ were a favor and not a right, and as if it were a luxury of the Court, and not the privilege of the prisoner. Before long, the suspension of the laws and the Constitution may cease to be for the exclusive chastisement of “rebels,” and new tests of “loyalty” may be prescribed in the very States now held most “loyal.” If public opinion re-acts against the policy of the Administration, it may be the next “military necessity” to strike down public opinion; and men may then begin to learn, when it is too late, that there is no more security for friends than for enemies, under a system where the power which creates the “necessity” is the exclusive and irresistible judge of its extent and application. Good motives, ascribed to such a power, are no better security than bad ones. Mr. Lincoln himself has said, in his Message, when speaking of another thing—what he, at all events, may not gainsay—“*The little disguise, that the supposed right is to be exercised only for just cause—themselves to be sole judge of its justice—is too thin to merit any notice.*” There are those who may hearken to Mr. Lincoln who will not hearken to Washington; but Washington, in the fare-