

in view. These have formed so long the subject of their ambitious meditations, that after having in form opposed, but in effect promoted the success of political agitators at the North, as reckless as themselves, they have seized upon that success, the result of their own contrivance, as the pretext for their premeditated rebellion. And thus to accomplish their selfish and ambitious schemes, has this contest been thrust upon us, and our beloved country, lately so prosperous, peaceful and happy, made the theatre of a civil war, prostrating every industrial pursuit, penetrating every domestic circle, and involving all more or less in its calamities.

The question is frequently asked, and with natural solicitude, when will these things end? how long will this war last? and how and when may we look for returning peace? To harbor a doubt of the proper answer to these questions, is to protract this war. In the very nature of things there can be but one solution of the problem. The geographical condition of our country, the character of our people, their indispensable necessities, and their not less indispensable duties, alike forbid the possibility of any other.

Their very existence depends upon their nationality; it never can therefore be surrendered. To surrender it, is to admit the failure of republican institutions—is to confess before the nations of the earth, that we are powerless for self-government, and to transmit our names to future generations, to stand forever in ignoble contrast with the glorious sires from whom we have descended. At such a suggestion, we might almost expect to see the guardian spirit of this venerable Chamber, hallowed as it is by such memories of the past, rise up to rebuke the recreant thought.

The leaders of the rebellion may assert over and over again that the South never will submit to this national rule—that it will resist to the last the proposed reunion. So far as those leaders are concerned, we may not doubt the sincerity of their protest; their offences against free institutions are too rank and too recent to allow them willingly again to submit to the will of the majority. But to say nothing of that popular voice, which they have for the present stifled, to admit for argument sake, that but one sentiment pervades the entire South, and that it clamors for a separate Government—earnest as that purpose may be, there is a still stronger force opposed to it—not merely the force of a vast numerical superiority, but a power made irresistible by the force of necessity; a controlling and decisive power, growing out of the demands which the laws of self-preservation make imperative. Nationality with us therefore is a necessity, and peace, anxiously as we may await it, can never come until that necessity is recognized, and our whole country once more united under its old