

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.
Less than six years ago, the haughty and arrogant spirit, flagrant in the face of the people, had been rebuffed by the people, and the world that they had so long despised, had become their master. The National Capitol, pay their armies from spoils in Wall street, New York, and call the roll of their slaves from Bunker Hill monument.

Although thinking men had for years foreseen the danger and impending crisis, the shock came upon the masses like a tornado—found them unprepared and unwilling to believe that there was in this vast and happy land no man as unqualified to destroy this Government, unqualified in property, the admiration of civilization and hope of the down-trodden, toiling millions of the old world. It was not until the thousands of war were heard that they perceived the danger, and then before them stood the specter of a ruined and blood-stained Republic. They had, however, run down the forests, fenced up the prairie, reclaimed the wilderness and built cities; the rails of their ships were seen upon every sea; their railroads would circumnavigate the globe; their mines were developing the wealth of the earth; arts and sciences were fast reaching perfection.

They had shunned the war, they had refused to see the danger, they had refused to defend their own liberties and maintain the principles upon which the Government was founded— "Equal rights and justice to all men." They met the foe; if defeated, they rallied and renewed the attack; if betrayed, set aside or punished the betrayer; if incompetent generally failed to lead their armies to victory, a hot man was found; if their rulers refused to pass such laws as were necessary to push on the work, they were notified to stand aside; if men, either through ignorance or malice, attempted to assist the enemy, they were assured if they kept still they would not get hurt; when money was wanted, those who had it saw it in their interest to furnish what was needed; now, the vast work was commenced without preparation. It grew, as time would permit, until such was its force and power that the proud lords of slavery were humbled, their armies dispersed, their general prisoners of war, and their civil authorities, begging for pardon and mercy—justice they knew they would never get.

All this catalogue of events that have passed are within the recollection of every man, woman and almost every child. The history is known and read of all men, and how any man could be permitted or required by the people, is a mystery. That proud and triumphant host that passed in martial array before the city of Washington, should have passed before the fathers and mothers, who had by their advice, money and aid, sustained, assisted and supported them in their arduous toils. No man can say "I done this thing," and he who arrogates to himself this work is a fool or a knave. The prosecution of the war to preserve the Union was the act of the people, and he who was opposed to the war was not even a part of the Union as a friend to the Union, say what they may.

This power that defied and preserved the Union, in order to show the deluded followers of party that they had no selfish motives, placed a man in the second civil position in the nation (now by accident in the first) who was misstrusted by many and feared by yet, his great and noble character, and his high and noble mind have not passed since the rebellious States were at the mercy of the Federal power, ready, willing and anxious to accept any terms that would stop the war, and for several months a drummer boy could have carried the flag anywhere in their country undisturbed.

What do we see now, and what is the cause? Men who in that country, and the Union arrayed in more deadly than any array of the war; men are to-day exercising control, by executive appointments who, beside the act of treason, ought in justice to be hung for other crimes. Union men and freedmen are murdered by an infuriated mob, the civil authorities heading the rioters, and the President calling on the military to help them! The people of a nation of free men, should have a right to know, if ever, behind in the annals of history.

There can be but one answer for the cause of all this perfidy, viz: a selfish, willful determination to carry out a policy that loyal people regard as unjust to the defenders of the Republic.

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