

"Our Southern Rebellion - A Speedy Settlement or the Collapse of Southern Institutions," New York (NY) Herald, July 11, 1861

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Our Southern Rebellion—A Speedy Settlement or the Collapse of Southern Institutions.

It must now be apparent to the most superficial observer of the developments of our Southern pro-slavery rebellion that the alternative presented to our revolted States is their speedy return to the Union or the ruinous demoralization of their peculiar and vital institution of African slavery. A speedy settlement, or the absolute overthrow of Southern industry, Southern wealth and the foundations of Southern society, is the issue now presented to Jefferson Davis and his confederates.

What is their situation to-day? There are eleven slave States committed to this rebellion—South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina. There are three other slave States which, though adhering to the Union, we will count as being neutralized in this contest, between their Union and rebel elements—to wit, Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri—and there is one other slave State—Delaware—which is fully committed with the loyal States of the North.

The total population of the eleven revolted States, in round numbers, is..... 9,250,000
Of the nineteen active loyal states.....19,000,000

Here is a great disparity; but it is enormously increased from the cumbersome item of three million five hundred thousand slaves, embraced in the population of the revolted States; and from this other fact that at least half a million of the stoutest white population of Tennessee and Virginia are the active allies of the loyal States. It would thus appear that this Southern rebellion is limited to a white population of about five millions from which to draw its armies, and has upon its hands an internal servile black population of three and a half millions to look after. Thus, in the item of soldiers, the capabilities of our government, compared with those of the rebel cause, are at least as four to one.

The difference is much greater, considering our absolute command of the sea; for in the blockade of the Confederate ports the effect against them is equal to the loss of many thousands of men. Thus cut off from their late trade with Europe and the factories of the North, and having no sufficient factories of their own, our revolted States are already seriously straitened in their means for arming, equipping, clothing and shoeing their soldiers in the field. But their greatest danger

from a protracted war is the danger which it threatens to the institution of slavery. Already, from the evidence before us, the slave property of Virginia, since the bombardment of Fort Sumter, has suffered an average depreciation of at least fifty per cent—equal to a loss of one hundred and fifty millions of dollars in this single item of property in a single slave State. This, too, while the federal armies are still only along the borders of its populous slaveholding districts.

What, then, will be the consequences in reference to slave property and to this peculiar institution with the occupation of Richmond by the federal army from Washington, and of Norfolk by the army from Fortress Monroe, and of Charleston by an army landed somewhere within a convenient distance, and marching upon that city in the rear? There is the deep water port of Beaufort, and the surrounding islets of the isle of Port Royal, some fifty miles below Charleston, for example, into which our largest ships may enter, and from which an irresistible army may be marched in two or three days to Charleston, after the first frost. And that these things will be done, should this war go on, there can be

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no doubt; for a petty skirmish or two, or a masked battery here and there, will not much longer delay the general onward movement of our powerful fleets and armies.

In the judgment of the popular branch of our Congress, it has been declared that "It is no part of the duty of soldiers of the United States to capture or return fugitive slaves;" and this declaration will be acted upon as the law. Of course, with the advance of our troops into the populous slave regions of the South, there will be a fugitive movement among the slaves which may soon extend to a general stampede among them, or to their ruinous demoralization throughout the South. Thus, impressed with the conviction that this war has already reached a point that menaces the most serious consequences to the South, in connection with this institution of slavery, we would earnestly admonish our revolted States that their only hope of safety, security and future protection depends upon their immediate submission to the Union.

This is the time for this decisive movement in favor of peace, while yet our abolition agitators and the whole abolition movement of the North are held in subjection to the one great cause of the Union. Subdued and silenced as they are, the only hope of our abolition fanatics now is that this war will go on, until slavery shall be drawn into its fiery furnace and consumed; and their only fear is that slavery will yet be saved by a timely treaty of peace. Accordingly, before the South has suffered the humiliation of any great defeat, and while yet they may command the powerful intervention in their behalf of the Union conservatives of the North, we would urge upon Jefferson Davis and his confederates the saving alternative of submission to the Union. Let them lay down their arms and trust to the magnanimity of the North, and let them send up their representatives again to Congress, and they will be able at once, and for the future, to control the policy of the government in behalf of the perfect security and prosperity of Southern institutions.

On the other hand, let our revolted States hold on to the delusion of Southern independence by force of arms, and they will soon discover that President Lincoln's call for four hundred thousand men, and four hundred millions of dollars, has been cheerfully met by the loyal States, while the revolted States, short of funds, without security at home and without credit abroad, will be utterly powerless to raise the men, the materials or the money to resist this overwhelming invasion.

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