representatives to Congress without regard to its form of government. "The qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the legislature in any State shall be such as the legislature of the State may deem expedient to the body of the people, but be employed exclusively in a manner subversive of a republican form of government." Such a State would be out of all our Mr. Madison's definition, be not, according to Mr. Madison's definition, a Republican State, but an oligarchy, which stifles the popular will.

Could the founders of our National Government have intended that Congress, the only power in America having authority to make laws which *not peers and but all the people of the United States*, should be composed in whole, or in part, of representatives of politicians, or of an untrammeled aristocracy who have no sympathy with the people, and no interests in common with them? Did they intend that the Government should exercise no authority or control over State institutions, and have no right to protect the people of a State from oppressive rulers, or the people of the United States from the mischievous influence of such rulers in the legislation of the country? The Constitution itself answers the question:

"The United States shall guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government." That is, according to Mr. Madison, a Government which derives all its powers *from the good body of the people*; or, according to the fundamental principle of the Revolution, a Government which shall *secure to all men* the indefeasible rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;" *deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed.*

This guarantee is the vital spark of the whole system which Lincoln accepted and ordained. When we add to this the further provision, that "each House (of Congress) shall be the judge of the elections, returns, *and qualifications* of its members," the power to enforce that and secure the liberties of the people, through popular representation, is complete. A truly unfettered Congress is the common right of the American people; and such a Congress must never be tainted or corrupted by this spirit of the Southern States, that by expression or of injustice that spirit may assume. The admonition should be written upon the walls of every chamber, *Let no one enter here who denies the truth of the declaration that all men are created equal.*" This was the Congress through which the men of the Revolution expected America to become a shining light to the nations of the earth.

There was but little agitation in the public mind on the subject of slavery until the application of Missouri for admission into the Union. It seems not to have been anticipated that under any system of government such a pernicious English plant could flourish very long in America. But slavery had crept in, people thinking it a considerable part of the first Eighteen years of the present century were less shocked to the subject of negro slavery than to the idea of the South three old years ago England was at war with France, because the French people had caught the spirit of the American people, and had sought deliverance from a despotic Government. Always true to slavery, she sided with despotism, and plunged into a terrible war to crush the spirit of freedom that was finding its way into the heart of Europe. She had no other object to accomplish.

America being a neutral, had engrossed the chief part of the carrying trade of the world, and was rapidly growing to importance as a maritime power. Our flag was everywhere, and England resolved it should be nowhere. It was to be a war against neutrals, as well as legitimate war, but by an order in council. Accordingly, the order was issued, and here it is: "All the ports and places belonging to France, or any other power, which, though not at war with his Majesty, the British flag is excluded, shall be subject to the same restrictions in regard to trade and navigation as if the same were actually blockaded in the most strict and rigorous manner; and that all trade in articles, the produce and manufacture of the said countries, or colonies, shall be deemed unlawful, and all such articles declared good prize." This order was issued in June, 1806, and intended to sweep her commerce from the seas. It was in plain violation of public law, which requires that blockades, to be binding, must be made effective by a force stationed to prevent an entry. But what does the spirit of Slavery care for public law? It was but a slight infringement of the well-settled rights of neutrals. But why should England care for that? America had been her ready ally against France, and therefore England captured our trading vessels, confiscated their cargoes, and seized our ships and men in contempt of our authority, and in defiance of an intent to violate her paper blockade!

Under the claim of right her cruisers boarded our vessels, seized our seamen, cast them into loathsome dungeons, or compelled them to fight her battles, on the pretence that they were British subjects. She had instigated the Indians to hostility against us, and had sent a commissioner to Massachusetts to negotiate the dismembermentof the Northern States, and their separation from the Union in the event of a war. She had upon the ocean a hundred ships of line, and more than a thousand frigates of war carried her flag. The navy of America consisted of *four frigates and eight sloops-of-war!* Would America dare to *fight against* Slavery? The question was settled in 1775, and it was answered at Lexington, and Concord, and Bunker Hill, and Saratoga, and Yorktown, and Monmouth, and Eutaw Springs, and Cowpens, and Hobkirk's Hill, and Ninety Six, and Guilford Court House