

**THE REJECTED STONE: OR,
INSURRECTION VS.
RESURRECTION IN
AMERICA**

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The Rejected Stone: Or, Insurrection vs. Resurrection in America by Moncure Daniel Conway

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MONCURE DANIEL CONWAY

**THE REJECTED STONE: OR,
INSURRECTION VS.
RESURRECTION
IN AMERICA**

THE REJECTED STONE:
OR
INSURRECTION *vs.* RESURRECTION
IN
AMERICA.

BY A NATIVE OF VIRGINIA.



BOSTON:
WALKER, WISE, AND COMPANY,
245 WASHINGTON STREET.
1861.

CONTENTS.

	Page
I. UNION	7
II. UNMASK!	9
III. PILATE	14
IV. BETWEEN US BE TRUTH!	15
V. THE ORGANIC LAW	19
VI. THE REJECTED STONE	24
VII. CONSERVATION	29
VIII. COMPROMISE	31
IX. BROKEN	43
X. THE PRIVATEER	48
XI. A FOREIGN POWER	50
XII. MANASSES	58
XIII. BETH-EL	68
XIV. A REBELLION vs. A REVOLUTION	75
XV. EXCALIBUR	85
XVI. A FELICITATION	91
XVII. TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES	94
XVIII. TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE	113
XIX. THE GREAT METHOD OF PEACE	117

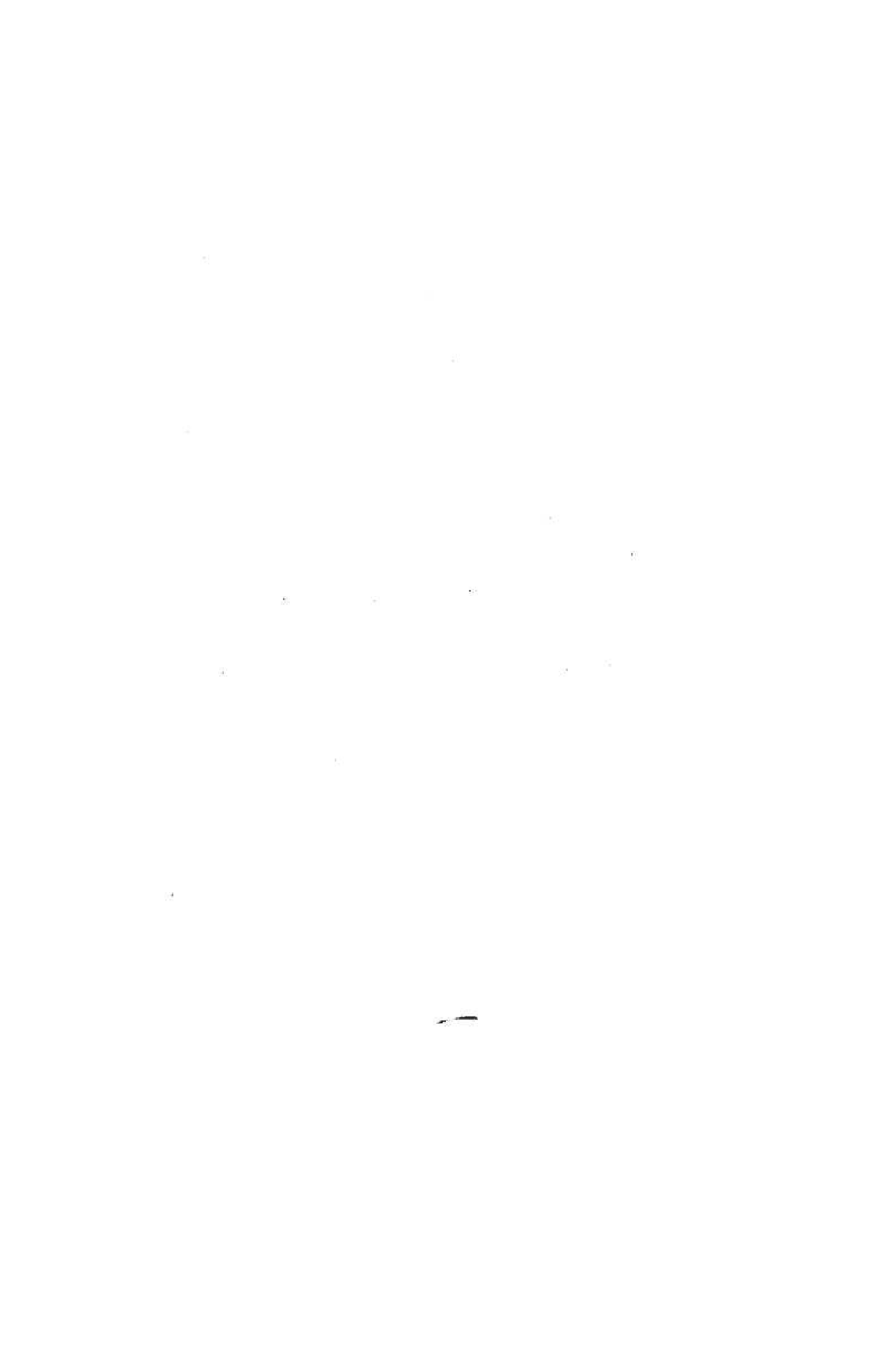
LORD BACON recommends that all important affairs should be committed first to Argus with an hundred eyes, and afterward to Briareus with an hundred arms. Things, he remarks, will have their first or second agitation. If they be not tossed upon the arguments of counsel, they will be tossed upon the waves of fortune.

The hundred arms have laid hold on the American question; whether the hundred eyes have done or are doing their work is doubtful.

The daily press brings to each household its presentation of "the situation," in a military aspect; but the ever-developing moral and historical situation is much neglected, or, for reasons of state, suppressed.

"Make bright the arrows!" said the Hebrew prophet. In this age, still more in this controversy, every weapon must think, every missile be winged with intelligence, every shell be fused with fire from God's altar.

It is with a profound conviction that the event of this war is to depend more upon the impregnability of principles than that of fortresses, and that it must be fought from a higher plane than any yet occupied by our forces ere it can be won, that I offer the following suggestions and discussion to the American people.



THE REJECTED STONE.

I.

UNION.

IN the popular mind, the brave sufferings of our past, the fruitions of our present, and the visions of our future, as a people, are baptized and consecrated in the name of UNION. The very word has thus become a talisman, which, because so long supposed to contain all the secret of our national health and wealth, has gained the command of all the living forces of the New World. The good and strong men who have arraigned the Union have done so critically, not virtually; and now, when the question is no longer on the exegesis of Mr. Hamilton's or Mr. Randolph's remarks in the Convention of '87, but on the right of eminent domain in this country, or any portion of this country, as between Barbarism and Civilization, there is but one party possible among loyal men,—that which would preserve the Union.

But it must be candidly acknowledged in the outset, that, in the sense of the politicians, there is no Union

to be preserved. 'T is only a sad satire to call States "United," wherein that which is felt on one side to be the blot on the national escutcheon is maintained on the other as the governor of the national machinery. It is questionable whether the people mean, by their effort to "save the Union," the same that is meant by some of their proxies. Do they mean thereby the preservation of the right at the South to imprison Northern seamen and landsmen, accused of no crime? Do our half-million bayonets gleam to-day to defend and preserve the right to nail up Northern freemen in tar-barrels and roll them into the Mississippi River? Is it, in short, the Union as it was, that the people have with one voice declared must and shall be preserved?

It is only a short time since compromises were proposed and seriously considered by the American people. They were deliberately rejected, even when the manifest alternative was civil war. Why rejected? Our people have not been given to scruples against compromise; they had many interests which civil war would ruin. These compromises were rejected, and the most unimportant guaranties refused, simply because of the utter worthlessness of what they were to purchase,—i. e. the Union as then existing. The only promise offered in response to Northern concession was, that things just as they were should remain undisturbed and immutable. But the people of this country had maturely decided that the present edition of the country was not worth stereotyping. In-

