For the N. Y. Times.

Rеunion by Еxpansion.

At the close of each successive year of this great and terrible Civil War, I have ventured to put forth the suggestion, that the easiest, safest and most advantageous solution of the present momentous difficulty would be Reunion by Expansion, that is, permitting a territorial addition to our federal system, and make it a Union of Nations, as well as States. As the third year of the war is considerably advanced, I should feel much gratified if you would admit a short communication, asking your readers to give once more a little thought to this proposition, to look at it in the light of the experience of the last two years, and in the view of that feature which seems to imperil over the country.

For more than a quarter of a century, the idea has been germinating in the American mind, that our great Sisterhood of States must gradually expand until it should eventually embrace the whole continent of North America. That this expansion would be a blessing to the Old World as well as to the New, that indeed Europe would create the necessity herself by losing her raw materials, labor and sustenance, a population sufficient to make two states a year, at the political standard of 400,000 inhabitants for each. That even the "Manifest Destiny Doctrine" had an element of reason in it, and also a sentiment of good will toward man of the outside world. There are hundreds of reasons now living in the Union who remember the time when 500,000 as many inhabitants as the single State of New York contains today. There are thousands now living who will see it number one hundred millions, if it continues to increase in population at the rate of the last half century. And Europe will be largely accountable for this stupendous growth. By the time the children of today are in middle manhood, we shall number 60,000,000, or as many as the present empire of Russia. Now, even a century is comprising a brief space in the life of a Nation. If five of them were taken out of the lives of England or France, we would hardly see the gap they would make in the pathway of their history. It is as we are short of time and under the necessity for a solution in our circumstances, to look forward and make provision for the inevitable growth of a century. A
former, in setting out an orchard, would calculate and provide the space which one hundred apple trees would require for their growth, and afforestation in the course of fifty years. It is not yielding to a false and arrogant ambition, at a vague and visionary doctrine of "manifest destiny," for a motion like ours to set itself laboriously at work, to make provision for that very growth which Europe threatens upon us.

Now, it is not the idea of filibustering, or of the "Knights of the Golden Circle," but the idea, second thought, that we, and intelligent men entertained for years before this critical state of some future doubting of our population, our relations with the Mexican States, and with the British Provinces in America, must assume a new basis which bringing them into a more intimate connection with us. This idea unquestionably was provided more extensive among what may be called undertakers, than the public pulchri, had ever indicated. But I am confident, that both conservatives, and radicals, in adopting this idea, have left out of their conclusion one important contingency. They have overlooked the fact, that we cannot enter into any permanent and intimate political connection with the Mexican States or the British Provinces, without adding a new circle to our federal system, and becoming a Union of Nations. It may be well for all who have thought upon this matter, to let their minds rest upon this conclusion, that if Mexico shall ever find her advantage in becoming united or permanently associated with us, it must be as a whole, as an entire nation, retaining all the internal functions of its sovereignty with its own federal congress, its laws, customs, religion and language intact. We may assume it as certain, that we consider it would ever induce her to disperse the ties between her several states, give up her federal organisation, and come into our republic by piece meal, or as California and Minnesota were admitted. On the other hand, if the British Provinces in America, after having federated themselves in a Union of States, and established a Central Parliament, at Ottawa or Montreal, should think it could promote their interests to form a permanent and intimate connection with us, they would inevititably insist upon treating and being treated, as a whole, as a national organisation retaining their own Parliament, their local sovereignty, and...