

dent and Commander-in-Chief of the Army, slain by them in the midst of the very fiercest conflagration of war. For this there could be no complaint. It was proper and humane.

The military commission which tried the assassins of the President was carefully selected. It was composed of men taught by experience and habit to maintain coolness and equanimity in the midst of the most exciting scenes. If it were possible at that period and that place to have secured a fair trial the method adopted was the most certain to secure it. That commission certainly had no desire to wantonly and recklessly inflict punishment upon a woman. It patiently investigated the case. If Mrs. Surratt had not been guilty, if there had been any reasonable doubt of her guilt, she would have been acquitted, as some of the other accused persons were. The Government never showed any disposition to deal severely with any of those guilty of crimes connected with the rebellion. Its military arm was exercised mildly and humanely. It was only in a few instances of absolutely hideous crimes that the perpetrators suffered the extreme penalty.

There was no ground for any complaint that the military court was harsh or unjust or cruel. There is every ground for the conclusion that it did its duty with judicious calmness and perfect, conscientious impartiality. It found the proofs of guilt clear and incontestable, and rendered judgment accordingly.

The propriety of unusual and even extraordinary action on the part of the military arm of our Government, when some extraordinary occasion calls for it, has just been most strikingly illustrated in the nomination of General Hancock by the Democratic party. According to every Democratic authority, that party claims to be the champion of the principle of military subordination to civil authority at all times and in all places where war is not flagrant. At the same time, according to every Democratic authority, the grounds upon which the nomination was given to General Hancock are contained in his general order, No. 4, promulgated at New Orleans in November, 1867. *This was more than two years after the surrender of General Lee.* The meritorious part of that order, according to Democratic authority, is as follows :

"The right of trial by jury, the habeas corpus, the liberty of the press, the freedom of speech, and the natural rights of person and the rights of property must be preserved. Free institutions, while they are essential to the prosperity and happiness of the people, always furnish the strongest inducements to peace and order. Crimes and offenses committed in this district must be referred to the consideration and judgment of the regular civil authorities, *and those tribunals will be supported in their lawful jurisdiction.* Should there be violations of existing laws which are not inquired into by the civil magnates, or should failure in the administration of justice