

of the eastern continent, whatever may be their form, are daily becoming more and more sensitive to popular opinion. The people, already restive under their burdens, would soon discover that those burdens would be reduced, if not wholly removed, by the adoption of the  
\* 96 American policy, and they would \* inquire why they were denied the blessings of peace. Before long some minor states would commence the experiment, and the example would be followed by others. In time these treaties would be merged in more extensive alliances, and a greater number of umpires would be selected; nor is it the vain hope of idle credulity that at last a union might be formed of every Christian nation for guaranteeing the peace of Christendom, by establishing a tribunal for the adjustment of national differences, and by preventing all forcible resistance to its decrees.

It is unnecessary to discuss the character and powers with which such a tribunal should be invested. Whenever it shall be seriously desired, but little difficulty will be experienced in placing it on a stable and satisfactory basis. That such a court, formed by a congress of nations in obedience to the general wish, would, next to Christianity, be the richest gift ever bestowed by Heaven upon a suffering world, will scarcely be questioned by any who have patiently and candidly investigated the subject.

But many, while admitting the expediency of the plan we propose, will be tempted to despair of its adoption.

That many and formidable difficulties must be encountered in inducing \* this or any other govern-  
\* 97 ment to engage to submit all its future claims and grievances to arbitration cannot be denied. But similar difficulties have been experienced and surmounted. The abolition of the slave trade and the suppression of intemperance were once as apparently hopeless as the cessation