

British House of Commons to demand adequate satisfaction for the injury done to their fellow-subjects, and to resent the indignity offered to the British flag. They knew, likewise, that, on a representation to the Court of Madrid, his Majesty's Ministers had been informed that one vessel had been restored, but that no satisfaction had been made; on the contrary, the restoration was accompanied by a claim on the part of the Court of Spain, the most absurd and exorbitant which could well be imagined; a claim which they had never heard of before, which was indefinite in its extent, and which originated in no treaty, or formal establishment of a colony, nor rested on any one of those grounds on which claims of sovereignty, navigation, and commerce, usually rested. If that claim were given way to, it must deprive this country of the means of extending its navigation and fishery in the Southern Ocean, and would go towards excluding his Majesty's subjects from an infant trade, the future extension of which could not but prove essentially beneficial to the commercial interests of Great Britain. Material, indeed, were the disadvantages which Great Britain would sustain, should the exorbitant claim set up by the Court of Spain be complied with; and thence arose the necessity of the House meeting it as they ought to do, for the purpose of understanding definitely and distinctly what they were to expect from other nations on points so essential to the dignity of his Majesty's crown and the interests of British subjects. It was, therefore, necessary for that House, by  
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