

The friendly alliance of the Indians is derived from various causes :—in the first place, *from the American encroachments upon their rights and privileges ;* in the second place, *from the good-will of the frontier nations, purchased by the presents annually made them by our government ;* and, in the third place, *from an extensive intercourse which has been cultivated with them, almost over the whole northern continent of America, by our fur-traders.*

With regard to the first of these causes ; the rapid progress which the settlements of the United States has made towards the interior upon all sides, and the little ceremony observed by the Americans in obtaining possession of their new territory, has produced several wars between the Americans and the Indians, and thereby created and kept up in the Indian breast a constant rancour and antipathy towards these intruders.

Our government, upon the other hand, has carefully avoided the smallest misunderstanding with them upon the score of territorial right ; and, likewise, studiously courted and secured their friendship by an annual distribution of presents to the nations inhabiting the frontiers.