

means equally agreeable to the Americans. They immediately, in 1826, attempted to open negotiations for a change. Fortunately there happened at that time to be in the foreign department a statesman, who, whatever might have been his other errors, was at least exempt from any misunderstanding of American questions, or of the policy and character of their government. His answer to Mr. Gallatin upon that occasion is much and deservedly celebrated, and gave the highest satisfaction to all interested in colonial affairs, particularly for one sentence, most important to the present question, an express declaration, that, "*after what had passed on the subject of colonial intercourse, the British government cannot consent to enter into any renewed negotiations upon the intercourse between the United States and the British colonies, so long as the pretensions recorded in the act of 1823, and there applied to British colonies alone, remain part of the law of the United States*.*" This document, published by government, seemed designed to communicate their final resolutions, not only to the United States, but also to the subjects of Great Britain, by whom it was hailed as an additional assurance, that they were not mistaken in trusting to the faith of the late act and order, (which had become a part and supplement of the same law), and in understanding

* Letter from Mr. Canning to Mr. Gallatin, dated 11th of Sept. 1826.