

yet as a protecting asylum for an infamous and guilty fugitive; I have directed my steps upon the transatlantic shore, to obtain a refuge, in retirement, from scenes of adversity, and a cessation of the miseries of mental distress; to seek a resting place where sources of private unhappiness may feel the balm of solitude; where the eyes of the depraved rabble may never enjoy that luxury which is deemed intensely grateful to malignity and envy, when permitted to espy the faded lustre of decayed respectability, and the ruinous operations of disastrous and reverted fortune; where the afflicted proud man, when he feels the burning and resistless impulse to relieve and vent his anguish by external or internal tears, may weep in secret and alone.

But while the self-dependent and secluded nature of my present condition compels me to *regard my faculty as my own*, and brook no infringement of my personal rights from any existing human power, when the means of retaliation are accessible; I cling to the belief, that I feel myself too deeply bound by the obligations of moral conscience, by the intrinsic sanctity of justice, by the love of equity which dwells immutably inherent in the virtuous mind, and by the lingering attachments of pre-existing national sympathy which distinguish and adorn the human character, and interpose a true criterion betwixt the magnanimous and the servile spirit; I believe myself too potently restricted by these considerations, to espouse the American claims for the sake of popular favor, in considering the merits of the great international dispute which I propose to examine in this letter.

I must also observe to your Excellency, that, while I conceive myself, in this country, deeply indebted to a few individual friends; yet, from the nation at large, or any section, great or small, of the community, I *derive no favor, and therefore acknowledge no obligation*; I anticipate no advantage, and seek no benefit, *except as the reward of my own exertions*; and few therefore, I presume, can be easily found, who are better qualified by total exemption from "*fear, favor, or affection*," than I am, for the examination of this great question.

Having offered the preceding remarks to your Excellency,