

Government or People of that country can desire to involve themselves in a war with Great Britain, and we will not therefore incur the hazard of doing injustice, by charging them with insincerity, because this extraordinary and sudden outbreak was not more promptly curbed. It has indeed appeared to us, that a desire to vindicate their national character, to prevent their citizens from inflicting undeserved injury upon a friendly people, and to avert a war with an Empire certainly too just and too powerful to be either hated or despised, might have furnished sufficient motives, both of morality and policy, for greater and more immediate exertion than appeared to be made; but we know too little of the difficulties which may have impeded the prompt interference of the Federal Government, to entitle us to conclude that nothing effectual was for a long time intended, because nothing effectual was done.

It cannot however, we are persuaded, be said with sincerity by any of the inhabitants of this Province, that the Government of the State of New-York has seemed to them to act in the moment of anxiety and danger, with the firmness and good faith that befitted the occasion.

It is true that they condemned the outrages of which we complained; but although these were of the most flagrant kind, they were nevertheless committed by their citizens in open day, in the presence of their public authorities; and though in order to procure the means of accomplishing them, the arsenals of the State were plundered of artillery and arms, no attempt at energetic interference seemed to be made. The insult offered by their citizens to their own laws, appeared to be patiently submitted to, while the injuries inflicted upon their neighbours were expected to be as patiently borne; and the vigilance that slumbered during repeated acts of aggression by their people, first shewed itself in an exciting appeal against an act of self-defence on the part of this Province, which, when truly described, cannot be denied to be reasonable and just.

With respect to that portion of the American people who have taken a direct part in these hostile proceedings, nothing can be said that will in any degree palliate their conduct; nor will it be easy to wipe off the reproach which it brings upon their nation. Avowing as they have done, their intention to divide among themselves the lands of this Province, they have confessed the principal object of their warfare to be plunder; but the more general impulse which has enlisted the aid of multitudes in their cause, is the declared desire to free the people of this Colony from subjection to Your Majesty, and to drive what they call the last relic of Monarchical Government from this Continent.

It has astonished us to observe with how little scruple these lawless citizens of the United States appear to proclaim and act upon the principle, that any rebellion of the Subjects of a Monarchy is proper to be encouraged, as a struggle for freedom—as if it were an undeniable truth that even a limited monarchy, however carefully balanced, is incompatible with liberty, and can only be submitted to by people under restraint. They should shew at least so much deference for the rights of their neighbours, as to allow them to judge of matters which concern their own happiness and welfare. But while they profess to value themselves chiefly upon having what they call a Government of their own choice, they embark without hesitation in the intolerant attempt to impose, by force of arms, upon the people of Upper Canada, a form of Government which it is perfectly evident they do not choose. Living upon the very frontiers of this Province, these people cannot be ignorant that the maintenance of our connection with Great Britain, and an avowed preference for her laws and institutions, are the very points upon which our population have lately more than once rallied, and by an almost universal suffrage.

With the spectacle before them of the whole male adult population of this country, rising almost without exception, and arming themselves with eager resolution to support the authority of their Sovereign, they insist upon it, that the wishes of a few fugitive traitors, whom they, and some recreant British Subjects in England, have taken under their especial patronage, shall prevail over the almost universal desire of the people of Upper Canada.