

ly however they yet needed the kind fostering hand of their parent states. But if that be now withdrawn, where is the revenue on which you calculate? How can they pay for your lands? How can they discharge arrearages of taxes? How are they to meet your merchants of Baltimore and Philadelphia?—They cannot go to market—They have no resources but the produce of their farms—You suffer the Spaniards to lock these up—You tell them their crops may, nay must rot on their hands, and yet they must pay you their debts and taxes. Is this just? Will it be submitted to? These men bought your land in confidence that the Spanish treaty would be maintained.—All or nearly all your sales are since the date of that treaty. Now you suffer a wanton violation of it without an effort to remove the obstruction, and yet call on them for payment!—This cannot be expected—It would not be the rule between honest individuals, for the seller of an estate, suffering an eviction of the purchaser, when he might and could prevent it would not in conscience be entitled to receive the purchase money.

If it comports with your calculations of interest or convenience to submit already to this outrage, and to witness the ruin of one part of your country for the sake of peace, in the residue: surely your ideas of justice will compel you to absolve the western people from all obligation to pay what it would ruin them to advance. Will you prosecute them in your courts? Will you sell their little all by your public officers? Will you not be content with the loss of all the lively hopes they had entertained, of gaining a new fortune and another name in the wild, but auspicious new countries of the west? Is it not enough that their day is darkening and closing at noon? Surely it will not be tho't reasonable to exact impossi-

bilities. It is undeniable, however, that by their ruin many of your own merchants on the Atlantic coast will be inevitably involved: And great as this evil may be (certainly of immense magnitude) yet the loss of the affections of a whole people, the destruction of enterprize, and the end of industry and hope in the western world, is incalculably greater.

It may be said that this is an overcharged description of the evil side of our affairs, without offering any remedy.

Mr. R. said that was far from his intention, and he would now examine that subject, because to his mind the remedy was obvious.

The experience of all time has proved, that with nations as well as with individuals, submission to aggression and insult uniformly invites a repetition and aggravation of the mischief.

To repeal at the outset is more easy as well as more honourable for the injured party.

Fortunately for this country there could be no doubt in the present case. Our national right had been acknowledged and secured solemnly by treaty. The treaty had been in a state of execution. It was now violated and denied without provocation or apology.—Treaty then was no security—The invaded right was one, the security of which ought not to be precarious—It was indispensable that the enjoyment of it should be placed beyond all doubt. The power with whom you have the treaty is either too weak or too unjust to observe it. He declared it then, to be his firm and mature opinion, that this right would never be secure while the mouth of the Mississippi was exclusively in the hands of the Spaniards. From their caprice, or enmity we had to apprehend constant interruption and misunderstanding—From the very position of our country, from its geographical shape,