

the United States had long turned covetous eyes, and to obtain possession of that Province had been the first object of its policy. During his residence in Mexico, America contrived to have a proposal made to the Mexican Government, offering \$10,000,000 for certain privileges in Texas, and that proposition having been refused, America then proceeded to encourage the settlement of Texas of the refuse of her own Southern States, who took possession of the land without title, or pretension to any title, and thus drew into it a population exclusively slave and American. A declaration of independence next followed.—That declaration issued from men recognising no law, and signed by only one Mexican, the President of the Province—a man of talent, it was true, but who had dealt most largely in Texas lands, and sought his own advantage. He was supposed to have formed a connexion with some influential men of the American Cabinet, and amongst them with Mr. Forsyth. What then had followed? America having created a population in Texas in the way he had stated, and having given to it every possible assistance, a committee of foreign relations in the Senate, came in with a report signed by Mr. Clay, for whom he entertained a high respect, discussing the necessity of recognising the declaration of the independence of Texas. The tendency of the whole report was to show the propriety, at a future time, to annex Texas to the United States. The question, therefore, for the House to consider was—first, the general policy of allowing a state, without remotest assistance, to extend itself, and thus put an end to the trade between this country and Mexico—the connexion between which would be completely cut off by a few American privateers ensconced in the Texian ports. The principle had been disclaimed in 1824, when it was proposed to annex part of Cuba to the United States, and that instance ought to guide this country in not allowing this contemplated extension of the American territory.

The next consideration was, whether the country would now allow a renewal and an increase of the slave trade. Such would be the result of this policy on the part of America, and from a pamphlet he had received this day, it appeared that the non-slavery states of America had themselves been roused to a sense of their own danger if that policy were successful. It was well known that there had long been a struggle between the Slave States and the non-slave States in Congress, and parties were equally balanced; but if Texas should eventually be annexed to the Federal Union, 18 votes in Congress at Washington would be added to those in favour of that most degrading feature in the civilized world—slavery.—On all these grounds he most cordially supported the motion of the hon. member from Southampton. (Hear, hear.)

Lord Palmerston observed, that if at the beginning of the observations he should have to make to the House, he said he did not feel himself at liberty to agree to the proposals of the honourable member for Southampton, he trusted that neither the hon. member nor the house would imagine that it was a proof that he did not feel the importance of its object, or that his Majesty's Government were not as much animated as was the hon. member with the desire to put an end to the evils to which the address he had moved so mainly related. (Hear, hear.) He (Lord Palmerston) trusted that he should be able to prove to the house that the address moved for was at present in some respects unnecessary, and in other respects premature. The observations of the two honourable gentlemen who had preceded him divided themselves into two different branches—the one relating to the political part of the question—and the other relating to the trade in slaves.

With regard to the political question, undoubtedly the possibility that the province of Texas might be added to the United States, was a subject which ought seriously to engage the attention of the house and the country, but he did not think that the events which had occurred afforded any ground for supposing that there was any such probability of its occurring as to call upon this house to address the Crown with reference to that matter. The state of Texas at present was this—a revolt having taken place there, the Mexican army had been dispatched for the purpose of putting it down. The first operation had been greatly successful, but a part of the army having very considerably advanced before the rest, it was surprised by the Texian force, routed with great slaughter, and the President taken prisoner. It might be possible that the resistance of the people of Texas might prevail against the authorities of Mexico, but, on the other hand, the numerical strength lay with the army of the Mexican Government, who from the last accounts which had been received, were preparing to make fresh efforts to reinforce their army, and from what had already happened the final result of the struggle could not be inferred.

With respect to the conduct of the United States of America in the matter, although he was aware that individuals in those States had given great assistance to the revolting population of Texas, yet the conduct of the responsible government of America was the reverse. If regard were had to the President's message to the Congress, it would be found to contain an unequivocal declaration of that Government to take no part in the Mexican civil war, and that in accordance with that declaration orders had been issued to enforce the laws in prevention of individuals mixing themselves up in the matter. He (Lord Palmerston) had that opinion of the honour and good faith of the Government of America, as not to suppose that they would not act up to that declaration: and he thought fresh circumstances ought to arise before an address should be sent to the Crown on that political branch of the question.—(Hear, hear.)

Now with regard to that part of the question which related to the trade in slaves, the hon. gentleman opposite had remarked, that no correspondence had been had before the house with regard to the progress or diminution of the slave trade supposed to exist in Texas, while other parts were given. The fact was so; and the explanation he had to offer was, that His Majesty's Government had no agent in the Province of Texas, and they had only lately received information from the British minister at Mexico, bearing on the illicit traffic in slaves supposed to be carried on in Texas. It would be a great evil much to be deplored, if the course of the civil war were to lead to an extension or re-establishment of slavery. That was a matter deserving the attention of the house; and if the house supposed that his Majesty's Government were either indifferent or unwilling to bestow the most vigilant care to prevent such an evil, he should be willing to agree in thinking with the hon. member for Southampton, it fitting to admonish the Government in the manner he proposed; but he (Lord Palmerston) assured the House the Government required no such stimulus to perform their duty, and he thought that what they were now doing might be accepted as a proof that they were anxious and active in endeavouring to put down the slave trade in every part of the world, and to prevent its springing up in quarters where it did not already exist; but he did not think there was any considerable danger of such an evil being the result of the Mexican civil war, for it was evident that either Texas must be conquered and yield to Mexi-

can authority, or that it by succeeding in its struggle, would become an independent state; or thirdly, add itself to the United States of America. Now, if the Mexican authority were re-established, no more encouragement to the slave trade would be given in Texas than in any other Mexican State.

Again, if the Mexican authority was thrown off and the independence of Texas declared, it would then be open to this country to interfere and put down any trade in slaves that might be carried on. Lastly, if Texas should in the progress of events, become a member of the United States of America, though slaves might be sent there from other States, there would be no real danger of the importation of slaves from the coast of Africa, or the islands of the West Indies. He was inclined to believe that an importation into Texas of slaves from Cuba had taken place, but he had not heard of any such importation from the coast of Africa. With regard to the importation of slaves from Cuba, he must say that it had occurred before the treaty concluded between Spain and this country, for suppressing the slave trade, had come into operation. The statement of the hon. member of Southampton therefore, applied to a time antecedent to that ratification of the treaty.

The noble lord then entered into various particulars of the measures taken by the government for the suppression of the slave trade, and added, if the government should receive any authentic accounts of the introduction of slaves into Texas, it would be their wish as well as duty, to take such immediate steps as would put it down.—Now as to the political question, he thought there was no ground whatever, why this government should interfere politically. As to that part of the address which called on the crown to interfere to prevent the traffic of slaves in Texas, he thought it would involve a censure on the government they did not deserve, considering the measures they had already adopted, and on these grounds he must oppose the motion.

Mr E. Buxton did not think any blame attributable to the government, with respect to the extension of slavery in Texas, but he thought the subject required their continual vigilance. This government was bound to remonstrate with the Mexican Government as well as that of the United States, which as a Government was as strongly opposed to the extension of slavery as we were.

Mr. B. Hoyt, after what the noble lord had said, would not press his motion.

Mr Hume, Sir T. French, and Sir J. T. Reed made some important remarks.

Dr Lushington said there were several circumstances, under which this country had a right to interfere, to prevent the traffic in slaves in Texas. So long as Texas remained in a state of dependence on Mexico, or did not establish its independence, this country had a right to insist on its observation of the treaty which we had made with Mexico, of which under such circumstances, it must be considered as forming a part. If it did establish its independence, we could recognise it as a state on such conditions as we pleased, and could make the abolition of the slave trade one of them. But if the state was received into the Union of the North-American States, then we could demand that it should be bound by the treaties which we had contracted with the government of those states.

Dr Bowring thought we were bound to remonstrate with the government of North America, against the introduction of any slave-dealing trade in the Union.

The motion was then withdrawn.