

and some of them are convulsed with actual revolution, in consequence of the universal spread of intelligence among the people. The contest between ignorance and light, and between despotism and liberty, is going forward throughout Christendom. Every where the spirit of improvement is abroad; and the same spirit pervades all ranks, and every department of human thought and industry. In religion, politics, literature, and the mechanic arts, men have resolved to think for themselves. They will neither be machines to do the work that steam engines can do for them, nor will they be slaves of idle, nor the instruments of artful rulers, in church or state.

Ours is moreover an economical age, when nothing is valued that is not useful or practical, and when little value is placed upon mere names. At such a time, with the eyes of the civilized world upon us, we cannot believe that a people, such as we are, can deliberately purpose to consign a vast region to eternal sterility, and to support a multitude of human beings in idleness, ignorance, intemperance, and bloodshed. We are not so wedded to names, as to believe that we are obliged to keep up a state of things which we know to be wrong and impolitic, merely because it exists, and has existed; nor can we adopt the maxim of legitimacy so far as to feel ourselves bound to respect that which has nothing to recommend it but its long continuance, and nothing to support it but the prejudices of ignorance, and the selfishness of interested individuals.

This whole subject must soon occupy the serious attention of Congress and the people; and when all the facts shall be presented, in a connected view, it will be seen that our existing policy must be radically changed or wholly abandoned; and the question to be decided will be, whether the savage tribes shall be driven beyond our frontiers, and left to their fate, or be subjected to the wholesome constraint of our laws, or connected, by ties of a territorial sort, such as connect Iowa, Oniscousin, &c., to this nation. The indolent and the timid may shrink from the second alternative,