

the ability, to conquer an unoffending neighbour! To such an extent, indeed, was this spirit diffused, that but few persons dared to utter the sound of remonstrance!

What had Mexico ever done, to warrant such a wanton disregard of her rights? Had she been our own old task-master? Had we waged war with her? Had she ever aroused the savages to devastate our frontiers? Had she sent emissaries to effect a dissolution of our Union? Had any of her people come into our waters, in the dead of night, and murdered those found on board one of our vessels? Nothing of this kind had ever taken place. If there ever had been any cause of complaint, a late treaty had obliterated all remembrance of it.

If we had no complaint as to the past, what fears existed, as to the future? We had not the one, any more than the other. Our own soundest policy was, to have a passive neighbour on such a frontier, and not a colony of adventurers. If we interfered at all in the affairs of Mexicans, it should have been, to cheer, to advise, and protect them in their weakness; especially as, in defiance of prejudices, they were trying to establish a republic like our own; and yet, we made all but open war upon them, in favor of our own invading citizens! We did so, ere the seal on our treaty with them was dry!

Is there the smallest resemblance between the cases of Texas and Canada? I have briefly stated the one, let me now refer to the other.

The Canadians were conquered by the English, and have been ever since held in bondage by them. They are separated from them, less by the broad Atlantic, than in origin, religion and interest. So little did they assimilate, that, when our own revolution broke out in 1775, the English feared that the Canadians also would revolt. So natural did this course appear to ourselves, that we invited them to throw off a foreign yoke. It is true, the Canadians did not obey our call; but their inactivity was not owing to any fondness for the English, or to any dislike towards us. On the contrary, when the troops under Montgomery, and those under Arnold, penetrated their country, no Canadian arm was lifted against them; and when our countrymen were discomfited, if the Canadians had not helped them in battle, they poured oil into their wounds when it was over. The true causes of their inactivity were, their peculiarly pacific habits, and their submission to their clergy. The English artfully appealed to their French feelings, and to their religious prejudices. They were told, that by a connection with the Puritans of New England, their own Catholic faith would be trampled upon, and their religious houses desecrated.

Again—When the French revolution occurred, a revolt in Canada was apprehended; and then a new course, of conciliation, was resorted to. The maintenance of French civil laws was guaranteed, and even a constitution was granted. What was refused to the thirteen colonies, in 1775, at the point of the bayonet, was granted to the Canadians, without solicitation, in 1791: that is, the right of levying taxes and appropriating revenue. No taxes were to be levied, or revenue appropriated, without the consent of the local legislature. The exercise, of this constitutional and conceded right, was, however, at no time, fully enjoyed. Swarms of crown officers were sent to Canada, just as they had been sent to the thirteen colonies. “to harrass the people and eat out their substance.”—Those stipendiaries did not choose to have their salaries regulated according