

freedom and constancy, up to the period when the appeal to arms is actually made, or becomes clearly inevitable. Then the patriotic citizen adheres to, and maintains to the utmost, his country, right or wrong. Always a delicate ground, it is peculiarly so from the critical relations now existing between this Government and Mexico. Considerations of national pride might even now restrain the expression of sentiments which I most firmly entertain, were not the contending nation, Mexico, whose weakness, from internal dissensions, is so generally conceded that nothing I might say could be construed into undue concession to her power. And, in the recurrence which I shall make to the conduct of our Government towards Mexico during the Texas revolt, nothing of unfriendliness or disrespect is intended towards the new republic which has emerged from that revolt. On the contrary, it is the profound wish of my heart that its political institutions may be speedily and firmly consolidated, and that its civil career may be as tranquil and prosperous as its military has been striking and glorious.

Now, sir, I extend my view beyond what has recently transpired on the Canada frontier, and, in searching for the real causes and authors of this crisis, recognise them in the conduct of our own administration. Them I now here solemnly accuse, and hold, as the country and mankind will, responsible, to the last degree, for every consequence of treasure, or blood, or fame, to which the present disturbances may lead; as fairly and naturally resulting from its dishonorable and perfidious failure to enforce our neutral and express treaty obligations to Mexico, under similar circumstances of provincial revolt. Whose devotion is headlong enough to deny the shameless supineness, if not positive connivance and instigation, displayed by the administration over the most audacious and reiterated breaches by our citizens of their obligations to that Power?

The West and Southwest, from the beginning of the Texas revolt to our recognition of its independence, exhibited, in almost every city and village, the aspect of a national war. Military array in no concealed form, but in all "the pomp and circumstance" of war, was the spectacle of every day. The agents and emissaries of Texas, sensible of the gross impropriety and illegality of raising forces and fitting out military expeditions against a nation with which the United States were at peace, sought, at first, to cover their operations under the pretext of embodying *emigrants*, whose voluntary expatriation the Government was supposed to have had no right to prohibit. But, sir, emboldened by impunity, that pretext, as troublesome, was soon laid aside, and a direct military recruiting for the defence of Texas openly substituted. Bodies of men, with arms, uniforms, and standards, and every quality of organized military force, breathing war and vengeance against a friendly Power, were publicly displayed in the heart of our country! Are proofs required? The Representatives on this floor from that section of the Union are my witnesses to attest the literal truth of what is here declared.

And how, sir, was all this met by the administration? Instructions were despatched to the law officers of the United States, and perhaps others, announcing the existence of a state of peace between the two nations, and enjoining the enforcement of the obligations on our part which that state as well as treaty imposed. But these obligations were not enforced. They were in no instance attempted to be enforced. Yet all this the administration knew, and knew from the beginning; and *tolerated* it, against, as I understand, the solemn and reiterated remonstrances of Mexico.

Notwithstanding this, sir, charity, aided by a natural, and perhaps just, prepossession in favor of one's own country, might possibly have exculpated