

pose, under the authority of the United State. This was an overt and direct breach of the treaty of 1794, to remedy which, an explanatory article was concluded at Philadelphia, on the 4th of May, 1796, between Mr. Bond and Mr. PICKERING, on behalf of their respective governments. The evil complained of, however, was merely suspended, but not removed; and wherever any flaw could be discovered, or any fraud and unnatural interpretation could be given to the meaning of an article in the treaty, the Americans were sure to avail themselves of it, and the English were no less sure to be the sufferers. Thus the British traders were assailed and harassed in various shapes, notwithstanding the explanatory article of 1796, by the extortions practised in the rate of duties which were required to be paid.* In defiance of these vexations, the British traders persevered and continued to participate in the Indian commerce, by which they have contributed, in a great degree, to preserve that attachment of the natives to the British nation, which recent experience has proved to be of great and signal importance to the security of Upper Canada. On the other hand, the American Government was pursuing an unrelenting, savage, and systematic plan, for despoiling them of their lands, by every species of chicanery and injustice; and it carried on its design with such deliberate fraud and cruelty, that the natives became, finally, convinced that their extermination was the real object of that Government and its rapacious land jobbers. In consequence of this just apprehension, wars ensued at different periods.

The hands of Great Britain being tied up by her own impolitic acts, she did not, in the least, interfere: and, although the vexations exercised against the British traders, were not only continued, but more seriously extended, by the seizure of their boats and merchandize navigating on the lakes, in virtue of solemn treaties; yet pacific representations, only, were resorted to, notwithstanding that the compensation for the pecuniary damages sustained by such seizures, and their consequen-

* See the Representations of the Canada merchants to the Lords Commissioners, in 1806, on the treaty which was rejected by Mr. Jefferson. Also the New Quarterly Review, No. II. p. 367. After the acquisition of *Louisiana* by the United States, all intercourse with that part of it, extending to the west side of the *Mississippi* was prohibited to all British traders, who would not abjure their allegiance and become citizens of the United States, which was a flagrant violation of the treaty of 1794, as well as of the explanatory article of 1796. Mr. Atcheson's Book, p. x, &c.