

peace, concessions calculated merely for their own aggrandizement, and for the humiliation of their adversary. At one time, they proposed, as their *sine qua non*, a stipulation, that the Indians, inhabiting the country of the United States, within the limits established by the treaty of 1763, should be included, as the allies of Great Britain, (a party to that treaty,) in the projected pacification; and that definite boundaries should be settled for the Indian territory, upon a basis, which would have operated to surrender, to a number of Indians, not, probably, exceeding a few thousands, the rights of sovereignty, as well as of soil, over nearly one third of the territorial dominions of the United States, inhabited by more than one hundred thousand of their citizens.\* And, more recently, (withdrawing, in effect, that proposition,) they have offered to treat, on the basis of the *uti possidetis*; when, by the operations of the war, they had obtained the military possession of an important part of the state of Massachusetts, which, it was known, could never be the subject of a cession, consistently with the honor and faith of the American government.† Thus, it is obvious, that Great Britain, neither regarding "the principles of a perfect reciprocity," nor the rule of her own practice and professions, has indulged pretensions, which could only be heard, in order to be rejected. The alternative, either vindictively to protract the war, or honorably to end it, has been fairly given to her option; but she wants the magnanimity to decide, while her apprehensions are awakened, for the result of the congress at Vienna, and her hopes are flattered, by the schemes of conquest in America.

There are periods in the transactions of every country, as well as in the life of every individual, when self-examination becomes a duty of the highest moral obligation; when the government of a free people, driven from the path of peace, and baffled in every effort to regain it, may resort, for consolation, to the conscious rectitude of its measures; and when an appeal to mankind, founded upon truth and justice, cannot fail to engage those sympathies, by which even nations are led to parti-

\* See the American despatches, dated the 12th and 19th of August, 1814; the note of the British commissioners, dated the 19th of August, 1814; the note of the American commissioners, dated the 21st of August, 1814; the note of the British commissioners, dated the 4th of September, 1814; the note of the American commissioners of the 9th of September, 1814; the note of the British commissioners, dated the 19th of September, 1814; the note of the American commissioners, dated the 26th of September, 1814; the note of the British commissioners, dated the 8th of October, 1814; and the note of the American commissioners, of the 15th of October, 1814.

† See the note of the British commissioners, dated the 21st of October, 1814; the note of the American commissioners, dated the 24th of October, 1814; and the note of the British commissioners, dated the 31st of October, 1814.