

nature or origin of the title of such displaced power. But this right is the right of succession, is the right of representation, not paramount, but derived, not under but, through the suppressed and displaced authority; and can only be enforced in the same way, and to the same extent and subject to the same correlative rights and obligations, as if that original authority had not been suppressed and displaced.

And as early as 1818, the United States announced the same doctrine, "No principal of international law can be more clearly established than this: That the rights and the obligations of a nation in regard to other states are independent of its internal revolutions of government. It extends even to the case of conquest. The conqueror who reduces a nation to his subjection, receives it subject to all its engagements and duties toward other nations, the fulfillment of which then becomes his own duty." "An alliance between two nations cannot absolve either of them from the obligations of previous Treaties with third parties." (Wharton's International Law Digest, § 5.)

The Alaska Treaty of 1867 ceded to the United States "all the territory and dominion now possessed" by Russia within the strip of coast. By the Treaty of 1825, Russia had granted to Britain forever the franchise right of "navigating freely, and without any hindrance whatever, all the rivers and streams" in that strip; and by the Treaty of cession, the United States succeeded to the Russian sovereignty cum onere. In discussing the effect of the cession of Louisiana to the United States in 1819, Mr. Bancroft, in his History of the North West Coast, says: "Therefore with the rights acquired in 1819, the United States necessarily succeeded to the limitations to which they were defined, and the obligations under which they were to be exercised. From these obligations and limitations, as contracted by Spain towards Great Britain, Great Britain could not be expected gratuitously to release those countries, merely because the rights of the party originally bound had been transferred to a third power. (v. 2, p. 372.)

Similar were the opinions expressed by American statesmen when the Alaska Treaty was approved by the Senate of the United States in 1867; Senator Sumner said: "We have three different stipulations on the part of Russia: one, opening seas, gulfs, and havens on the Russian coast to British subjects for fishing and trading with the natives; the second, making Sitka a free port to