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PREFACE.

Audi alteram partem is a maxim of some antiquity, and of such universality that, from the sage to the schoolboy, it is uniformly allowed that no cause can be fairly decided without it. *Qui statuit aliquid, parte inaudita altera, Æquum licet statuerit, haud æquus est.*

It is to be regretted that the great affairs of Nations cannot be brought within the compass of this rule, and, considering the importance of the American Question, I confess, I should prefer waiting for the remarks of the Government of the United States, on the Declaration of the 9th ultimo, to discussing it this day.

As these cannot be had, however, I have endeavoured to provide a substitute in the shape of an American Newspaper Comment on that act.