

that our government see to it that they are put into the possession and enjoyment of their inheritance. In view of the neglect to make reciprocal that provision, the government should be the more ready to do these things.

The public document states—"the jurisdiction and title has passed to Great Britain," and "there remains no power in this government to confirm the title." Unhesitatingly, may it be stated, that no title to lands belonging to *individuals* was passed to Great Britain by the treaty. No, not a jot or tittle of the title in question was so passed. An individual is not in that manner to be dispossessed of his property.

A man's right to property justly acquired is from his Creator; and is for him to enjoy till by his own voluntary act he puts it away; or, in the Providence of God, it is taken from him. International treaties cannot take it from him. They are negotiations wholly relative to public affairs. In the conveyance of territory, they convey only what is *national*—*public* rights and not *private* rights. They can neither alienate nor abrogate private rights. If, therefore, the claimants' title was good before the public conveyance of Quadras Island to Great Britain, it was good afterwards; and remains good until something is done by themselves to impair it; and the American and British nations are under sacred obligations to respect it.

The claimants consist of a numerous and highly respectable body of citizens, and of needy widows and orphans, all anxiously looking to Congress for protection, and for that measure of justice which is their due. They ask the government to secure to them, from the grasp of covetous and evil minded men, their rightful inheritance; and, with the same evenhanded justice as she treats others, so to treat them—as she rewards others who have rendered meritorious services to the country, to reward them, the heirs of those who no less than the best of others, were public benefactors.

But it is said "there remains no power in the government to confirm the title." What has so much reduced her great power? Surely, the treaty took from her no power to do a thing so just, and so much desired, and which it is her prerogative to do.

Finally if the view of this subject be correct, then, let the voice of reason be heard; and, let justice respond; and principle and truth triumph. Let the government meet her obligations to her worthy citizens; and protect—if needs be, at any hazard, and in the plenitude of her power, protect them

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