

A LETTER TO A FRIEND.

PHILADELPHIA, *November 26, 1838.*

MY DEAR SIR—

You have not been wrongly informed. I am not ashamed, although one may well be afraid, to confess, that I sympathize with the Canadians, and desire to see them independent. But, while such is the bent of my inclination, far am I from calling in question the correctness of the motives of those, who differ from me. As in all the instances, in which I may have dissented from you, and our friend W——, I barely ask to be heard dispassionately. It is very true, as you say, that, I reprobated interference in the affairs of Mexico; or rather, I condemned the course of our government, in conniving at the invasion of that country. But, I see no inconsistency, between what I said then as to Texas, and what I say now, in relation to Canada. The cases are, in all essential circumstances, different, as I shall endeavor to show; and the very distinction makes the conduct of our government, on the several occasions, the more shamefully inconsistent and reprehensible.

What language can so well describe, the impropriety of our conduct to Mexico, as the denunciations, now pronounced, against sympathy for Canada? What rebuke, to our late President, can be so bitter as the proclamation of his successor, who promised to tread in his foot-steps? How can such glaring contrasts be reconciled? And yet, those, who tossed up their caps for the one, now hurl them in the air for the other!

It never was pretended, that Mexicans, or natives of that part of Mexico called Texas, complained of any tyranny, or that they were in revolt there. The Mexicans were all of one origin, religion, and interest. Those, who dwelt in Texas, were a part of a common family, cemented by the ties of nationality and kindred blood. They were contented with their lot, and willing to share the common destiny of their countrymen.

Who, then, were the insurgents in Texas? Almost to a man, Anglo-American citizens, who had gone there on speculation. To sustain this sort of insurrection, volunteers were openly invited, mustered, armed and marched from the United States. No interruption was offered! No arrests were attempted! No proclamation was issued! On the contrary, a part of our regular army was sent into the Mexican Territory; took post there; and made a powerful diversion in favor of those, who went to take what did not belong to them. Instead of denouncing those truly lawless proceedings, grave senators, in their places, applauded them. Instead of lamenting the disposition of men, with Saxon blood in their veins, to divide, overcome and oppress the weak, (as men of Saxon blood have almost always done,) our senators boasted of the inclination, as well as of