

of procedure, attended by what British Americans will ever consider an indefensible disregard of her own rights and interests, on the part of Great Britain, the grasping republic, in 1846, obtained a portion of Oregon, thereby reaching the Pacific Ocean and acquiring a further immense increase of valuable territory. On their Southern frontiers, the United States has pursued a system of *annexation*, somewhat different, but no less successful. For some years previous to 1836, a number of "American" citizens—cautious pioneers of a class of men who have since become more daring in their movements, and have acquired a wide notoriety, under the name of *filibusteros*—pushed their way Southwards into the sparsely populated Mexican territory of Texas. Upon finding themselves sufficiently strong to risk the attempt, they raised the standard of revolt against the Mexican Government. Assisted by large bodies of volunteers who flocked to the scene of action, from all parts of the United States, the rebels did not have to contend very long against Mexico, impoverished and demoralized as she was by a quarter of a century of civil war. Texas became an independent country, and, in 1845, that territory was *annexed* and formed another of the United States. By this series of adroit manœuvres, Mexico lost one-fifth of her territory; and the United States gained an addition nearly equal to one-fifth of what they previously held.

Throughout those regions of imperfectly explored wilderness, where national boundary lines are not so intimately known, or so accurately defined, as in Europe, there cannot be much difficulty, when the desire is not wanting, in raising a dispute relative to land marks. So it was soon discovered, both in the United States and in Mexico. A dispute, turning mainly upon the question of the South-Western boundary of Texas, brought the two countries into actual hostilities; and the year 1846 saw an American invading army cross the Rio Grande. If the Mexican contest with the Texian rebels was short and decisive, this one was still more so; for now Mexico, weaker and more distracted internally than ever, had the whole of the United States as her avowed enemy.

Part of the price at which she purchased peace, was the disposal of a just one-third of her whole remaining territories which went to increase the wealth and power of her insatiable neighbor and enemy, and which forms rather more than one-sixth of the whole territory now possessed by the United States. By the peace of 1848, the latter country acquired the fertile, gold-bearing California, with a wider and more valuable *frontage* on the Pacific, and the large territory of New Mexico, opening into the heart of Mexico an unobstructed road for further and future conquests. Whoever has observed the course of events, in that quarter, since the peace of 1848, cannot suppose it will be very long before such further conquests will be attempted. We have but recently seen an attempt made to perpetrate upon Cuba, another revolution on the Texian principle.

This rapid growth of the great North American republic, is fraught with painful considerations, to the British American people—the more so from their observation of the means by which that growth has, in a great measure, been effected. But apart from all consideration of the means by which the United States have acquired the vast territories and consequent political strength they now possess, one would naturally suppose that the mere fact of such an acquisition would be sufficient to give serious concern to the *British nation*. In 1783, those States were contained within an area of less than 390,000 square miles—the whole States and "Territories" together occupying but 720,000 square miles—and contained a population of not more than 2½ millions. In 1854, they have a territory of 2,750,000 square miles, and a population of over 24 millions. The growth of the Russian Empire, in territory, population, wealth—in power generally, during a period of 150 years, has not equalled that of the "American" Republic, for a space of less than half of that time. Great Britain has begun to feel serious alarm lest the Russian Autocrat should, by crossing nearly 2,000 miles over the savage deserts of Central Asia, attempt a conquest of the Anglo-Indian Empire. It is somewhat singular that she should entertain no apprehensions lest the democratic power of the United