

part of that general principle at this moment in favor with our rulers, of withdrawing from all external connexions, and confining our views to the government of our own territories. It is asserted that our force will thus be concentrated, our power compact, and our empire at peace. Would the human body be more vigorous by the application of an axe to its limbs? Would a skilful surgeon, in order to increase its strength, cut off an arm? It is as wise to throw away the power and influence which we actually possess west of the Jumna. That power and influence I believe to be an arm to the British Empire, which may be exercised with important advantage. The treaty of peace with Holkar, bad as it is, has left us in possession of the acknowledged supremacy in Hindostan, and has liberated from Mahratta extortion and oppression those states which are under our protection.* The protection of these states against the Mahrattas (and there exists no other power against which we can be called to protect them) can be no encumbrance. The relinquishment of all claims upon them being acknowledged by the Mahrattas in treaties, they would certainly refrain from attacking them unless they were prepared to engage in war with us; and if they are willing to incur this risk, they may as soon make an incursion into our territories as upon our allies, or break any other article of the treaty. Nothing can be easier than to keep those states quiet with each other; say but the word, and they will be still. Of this I have no doubt. Their confirmed habits of restraint and dependence make it certain.

The assertion that these alliances are no benefit to us is not true. They form a large extent between the Mahrattas and us. Under our influence they are good neighbours. They make a good military frontier. In the event of war with the Mahrattas, hostilities are carried far from our territories, and we still enjoy

* The mischief of this treaty has been completed by the Governor-General's subsequent acts, by the gratuitous cession of Tonk Ram-poor, &c., to Holkar, the abandonment of the Rajah of Boondee to Holkar's revenge, and the rupture of the treaty of Jypore.—C. T. M.