

saw his design, and refused the envoy an audience, though he was careful to abstain from offence, and instructed the Commanding Officer of the 81st Regiment to invite him to the mess, and pay him marked attention. But the American was not to be conciliated, and he spent the evening in warning the officers of the chastisement impending over England, and wondering at the Governor's infatuation. Nor would he take his dismissal, though Sir Howard despatched a reply to Governor Lincoln, stating that he was unable to enter into the subject in debate, as no communication was authorised between the two Governments except through the British Minister at Washington and the central authorities.

It had become so customary for England to submit to American encroachments that the attitude he held formed a topic for the whole continent, and excited a burst of enthusiasm in the British colonies. He was spoken of with pride and admiration, and none expressed these feelings more strongly than the Earl of Dalhousie, the Governor-General of Canada. "I beg you will offer his Excellency my best regards," he writes to Sir Howard's aide-de-camp, "and assure him that the steps he has taken regarding Baker, and his correspondence on that subject with the Governor of Maine, are in the highest degree gratifying to me. Nothing more firm, polite, and proper could have been done in these delicate and very important matters."¹ Sir Howard received a corresponding tribute from Mr. Vaughan, the British Minister at Washington. "I congratulate myself every day," he writes, "that at this moment of irritation we have such a person as

¹ Letter of the Earl of Dalhousie in the 'Douglas Papers.'