

What was the consequence? an enormous, almost overwhelming debt; safety was obtained, but it seemed nearly as terrific as the danger—still she bore herself nobly; other nations could give no aid, they were all equally exhausted, and were her debtors. She turned again upon herself, paid the *interest* to her creditors, and *preserved her honor*.

Was it not better far than fire and sword? Were not the sums annually raised from the affluent, and those having a competency less oppressive than the contributions to support an hostile army? Almost every nation on the continent was the scene of rapine, plunder, and woe; their churches were desecrated, their altars pillaged,—their trophies graced the triumphant entries of the invader, on his return to his own capital, and were placed as monuments of his victories, in the national galleries of his empire. The Italian States alone were forced to yield two millions sterling. England was tranquil, free and happy; she heard the tempest in the distance, but she was not scathed by it.

And would not America put forth her might in time of need, if her homes and her possessions were assailed, would she not give her support and make her contributions; would not man woman and child, rush forth, and say—take all—aye, all, rather than hostile foes shall own our lands; and when restored to peace, would she lament the sacrifice?—Never.

But had not this country something to do with English taxation? Who caused large armaments, and heavy expenditure, near her borders, in a neighboring Province? Were her loafers and mauraunders, and vagabonds, restrained or encouraged during a period of internal trouble, in those possessions? Were sympathetic meetings (as now) lauded, and arsenals robbed to promote aggression? Were, or were not, all these, and more, done to a peaceful ally, increasing her debt in order to escape the strangling embraces of her affectionate friend?—Now stop there, Jack—you've hit the nail on the head at last.

Another great cause of expenditure, is the defence of our numerous dependencies. "Britain's trade claims the whole habitable globe for its operations; her colonies are placed in every direction where man can exist—upon her dominions the sun never sets—her flag waves upon every sea—and volumes would be required to detail the result of her maritime enterprise, and internal trade." To protect all these, a large force is required, at a heavy cost, which swells the amount of her yearly expenses not a little; yet it would be idle to suppose that those very colonies do not furnish an equivalent, directly or indirectly, by fostering trade and encouraging manufactories. Now stop, Jack, I can't stand it—you have stood worse at Quatre Bras.