

under which they held quiet possession, and had the use and exercise of their powers, and not by right claimed: for until other Sovereign Powers shall, as the French King hath done, acknowledge their independence, they cannot be received as independent States, the allies of any other Sovereign: On the contrary, such a truce would relieve all difficulties with those Sovereign Powers, who, though they did not acknowledge their independence, might see the necessity of these Americans being admitted as *attendant*, if not *component parts*, of any congress which shall meet.

The chief matters respecting the *modes of possession* and the *regulations of commerce*, being by preliminary treaty, under the indefinite continuance of such a truce, arranged and settled, would clear the way of the principal difficulties of negotiation in any congress to be held, both as to forms, matters, and persons, and preclude all cases wherein your Majesty's honour might be committed.

Further: The putting of any negotiation, which your Majesty might permit to be undertaken, on the ground of such a preliminary truce, in order to prepare matters for the meeting of a congress, will give (notwithstanding such treaties