

the right to seize and appropriate the property and territories of an enemy. True it is, that the colonies of a foreign power are viewed, according to the law of nations, in the light of its property. But in estimating the propriety of carrying desolation, into the peaceful abodes of their neighbours, the people of New-England will not limit their contemplation to the mere circumstance of abstract right, nor ask what lawyers and jurists have written, or said, as if this was conclusive upon the subject. That people are much addicted to think for themselves; and in canvassing the propriety of such an invasion, they will consider the actual condition of those colonies, their natural relations to us, and the effect, which their conquest and ruin will have, not only upon the people of those colonies, but upon themselves, and their own liberties and constitution. Above all, what I know will seem strange to some of those who hear me, they will not forget to apply to a case, occurring between nations, as far as is practicable, that heaven-descended rule, which the great author and founder of their religion has given them, for the regulation of their conduct towards each other. They will consider it the duty of these United States, to act towards those colonies, as they would wish those colonies to act, in exchange of circumstances, towards these United States.

The actual condition of those colonies, and the relation, in which they stood to the United States, antecedent to the declaration of war, were of this nature. Those colonies had no connexion with the questions, in dispute, between us and their parent state. They had done us no injury. They meditated none to us. Between the inhabitants of those colonies and the citizens of the United States, the most friendly, and mutually useful, intercourse subsisted. The borderers, on this, and those on the other side of the St. Lawrence, and of the boundary line, scarcely realized that they were subjects of different governments. They interchanged expressions and acts of civility. Inter-marriages took place among them. The Canadian sometimes settled in the United States. Sometimes our citizens emigrated to Canada. After the declaration of war, had they any disposition to assail us? We have the reverse, expressly, in evidence. They desired nothing so much as to keep perfect the then subsisting relations of amity. Would the conquest of those colonies shake the policy of the British cabinet? No man has shewn it. Unqualified assertions, it is true, have been made, but totally unsupported by any evidence, or even the pretence of argument. On the contrary, nothing was more obvious than that an invasion of Canada must strengthen the ministry of Great Britain, by the excitement and sympathy, which would be occasioned, in the people of that country, in consequence of the sufferings of the innocent inhabitants of those colonies, on account of a dispute, in which they had no concern, and of which they had scarcely a knowledge. All this was anticipated. All this was frequently urged to this house, at the last and preced-