

tions—get the reputation of a grasping, avaricious, dishonest people, who will on all occasions take advantage both of the weakness and of the good nature of their neighbors to enrich themselves. How ever others may estimate these things, this is not the character which I would like any country having a claim on my love to acquire.

It may be observed, as worthy of the severest censure, that our government has of late got into a habit of making very loud and gratuitous professions of moderation and even disinterestedness when the policy pursued is of the most questionable character. Of this we have a striking example in our diplomacy with Mexico—grasping at her provinces, and at the same time professing to be her best friend. Together with these professions, we usually couple abuse of other nations. Now all this is in very bad taste, to pass over its morality, which is Machiavelian and infamous. It never imposes on foreign nations. Sagacious men are awakened by it to suspicion, when before they may have seen no cause for suspicion; and it disgusts men of sense both at home and abroad. Nor does this conduct produce much effect with those who are most ready to swallow all these hypocritical pretensions of moderation. Such persons generally care nothing whether the country has a character for moderation and honorable dealing or not; success with them is the criterion of the propriety of every measure; as to wrong, they feel altogether indifferent, provided their own country is aggrandized.

In this connexion allow me to notice another shallow and dangerous opinion which seems to be fast gaining ground among us—no longer confined, as formerly, to the ignorantly patriotic and the demagogues, but finding its way to higher places, and which exercises much influence over the public mind in reference to the Oregon controversy. It is the opinion that our own form of government, or rather, I should have said, our own government, is not only the best on earth, but that it is the only one fit to be tolerated among men. That our own government, if we do not corrupt it, is the best for us, all men here are generally agreed. To the assertion that it is the best on earth, when men are fitted to manage it wisely and enjoy it, I will not object. But that it is the only government fitted for mankind, and that all other governments are usurpations, tyrannies, systems of oppression, is both an extravagant and a dangerous doctrine. Nor is it an indigenous plant of this soil; it has been transplanted from the gardens of the Jacobin Club. Such exclusive