

be taken of the desirability of conciliating the people of England. We seem to treat the Americans as children whom it is incumbent on us always to keep in good humour, while flattering ourselves that we stand on higher ground. It is not until we come into actual conflict that we are painfully reminded that the reverse is more like the truth.

It may not be out of place here to refer to one example. Under the Nootka Sound Convention of 1790, as well as in agreement with our treaties with the United States in 1818 and 1828, we were at full liberty to settle upon any part of the disputed region. In July, 1859, the island of San Juan—then in the quiet, and almost sole, occupation of the Hudson Bay Company as a sheep farm, under a convention with Mr. Marcy, on the part of the United States, declaring the disputed islands under the Treaty of 1846 to be neutral ground—was suddenly, and in defiance of this convention, forcibly taken possession of, on a frivolous and untenable pretence, by the United States troops under General Harney. To the wholesome dread of responsibility, and owing to great forbearance on the part of our authorities on the spot, it is alone due that the United States troops were not summarily ejected by the preponderating British naval force which immediately assembled. From the position thus usurped the Americans never receded. After the usual war of words and despatches, we were allowed to land a similar number of troops on the other side of the island. There they have remained till within the last month or two, to the great advantage, no doubt, of the colonists, but at the cost of the British tax-payer. No reparation was ever made by the United States Government for this unprovoked outrage.

It is to be hoped that the experience of the past will enable us to deal more satisfactorily with the still open