

affect the claim of any other power or state to any part of said country: the only object of the high contracting parties, in that respect, being to prevent disputes and differences among themselves."

The provisions of this article were indefinitely extended by the convention of 1827—with, however, an agreement that it should be competent for either, at any time after the 20th of October, 1828, on giving due notice of twelve months to the other contracting party, to annul and abrogate said convention. The first remark which the committee will submit on the provisions of the 3d article of the convention of 1818, is, that they do not refer to the *possession* of the territory at all. That *possession* had always been in the United States until the war of 1812. It was then lost by conquest; but it was fully restored by the treaty of peace, and the formal surrender of it to the United States under that treaty. It was only the right of entering into the country—into its bays and harbors—for the mere purposes of such trade and commerce as was then carried on in that region, that was secured to the subjects of Great Britain. The same rights might have been extended to any of the ports, bays, and rivers of the Atlantic; but if extended in the precise words of the convention of 1818, who would have thought that Great Britain would have been admitted to the joint *occupancy* of Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, the Carolinas, and the other States of the Union?

If the possession of the territory was in the United States at the time of the convention of 1818—a fact which no one has ever attempted to deny—the provision of the 3d section can only be regarded as a permission to the subjects of Great Britain to participate with ours in the individual rights of trade and commerce enjoyed by our own citizens within the territory. The bill which is now reported does not eject them from the country at all. It does not deprive them of the privilege of entering into the country, its bays and rivers;—not at all. But it even guarantees a fuller and more perfect enjoyment of these individual rights, under an organized and well administered system of laws. From extreme caution, and to exhibit toward Great Britain the most scrupulous regard for all existing stipulations, which might be supposed to have an application to the subject, the bill proposes a speedy surrender of all British subjects who may be charged with any violations of our laws to the nearest British authorities having jurisdiction over such cases. The permission given to British subjects to participate with our own citizens in the enjoyment of personal or individual rights within the territory, never can be considered as circumscribing the right of the United States to establish a proper government for the regulation of all persons inhabiting the country, of which she had the undisputed possession. In this view, the provision for delivering up British subjects to their nearest tribunals could not have been justly required; but the same has been conceded by the committee, on the scrupulous principle just adverted to.

As to the twelve months' notice required to be given by the convention of 1827, the committee do not regard that as at all necessary, in order to open the way to such action as is contemplated by this bill. The committee do not know that, for the purpose of organizing such a government as is now contemplated, it is at all important to annul or abrogate that convention. That country is large, and there is evidently room enough for the subjects and citizens of both countries, in the exercise of all their enterprise in trade and commerce. All that will be required of them is to conform to the laws, and to respect the institutions, which we may establish. Doing this, we shall