

“Surely we may dread the future machinations of the English on our frontier, and we may help our neighbours to form a government for themselves, from which we may not apprehend any evil.”

Such, I say, are some of the considerations, which may have naturally and justly arisen, in the minds of our frontier citizens. If they were not right, there is ample apology for far greater error. If there is criminality, in any quarter, more than in any other, that quarter is the seat of our own government. There the invasion and partition of Texas were, I doubt not, planned. From that quarter, issued the authority to General Gaines, to take post in Texas, thus countenancing the proceedings there.

And yet, what is the result, as to Canada? What is the condition of hundreds of our citizens, misguided by their own government, who have been taken prisoners there? As if the British loyalists were not sufficiently ferocious, and disposed to hang them, our President proclaims, that he will not interfere between them and the ignominious gibbet! It may be, that there is a precedent for this in English annals, for those annals, unfortunately, are sufficiently bloody; but, if there is, I confess I have no remembrance of it. On the contrary, I do not believe there is a true-hearted English statesman, who would have put his name, to such a proclamation, as that issued on the 21st inst., by our Democratic President, “in the 63d year of American Independence.” If any British statesman would forbear, to save from the gallows, English volunteers, taken in arms in a revolted country, he would not proclaim the circumstance to the world; much less would he do it, to please a powerful nation, after having just before applauded volunteers, who invaded and dismembered a weak one. The opposite course, I think, has been pursued by the British. They have insisted, that English volunteers, taken in arms in a revolted country, should be treated as prisoners of war. It is true, that, in our own revolution, they threatened to hang such volunteers, as common out-laws; but we then had a Washington, who caused those volunteers to be treated as prisoners of war, by denouncing retaliation as the consequence of a different treatment.

Suppose, for a moment, that the Mexicans had hanged those, who invaded Texas, where there was no revolt; nay, let us call to mind the absolute fact, that Santa Anna did treat those volunteers as brigands, seeing that they entered a country at peace, uninvited, and palpably for selfish ends—what was the consequence? Our whole country was aroused, to go and avenge the alledged outrage! And yet, the late Proclamation of our own President, as to our citizens in Canada, where there is revolt, justifies what Santa Anna did, and reprobates our sympathy for those, who were massacred by his orders!

Let me be understood. The cases of Texas and Canada are wholly dissimilar. We had no complaint against the Mexicans, but we had against the English. We had no cause to fear the one, but we had to dread the machinations of the other. The former were weak and the latter are powerful. Yet we connived at the invasion of the one, where there was no tyranny; and have denounced aid to the other, where there is tyranny. We invited volunteers from all countries, to help us, in our own day of trial, the French, the Poles and the Irish especially—and yet we denounce as “nefarious” any interference of our own citizens