

country? The arrest of McLeod cannot but be looked upon as a serious breach of those friendly relations which have so long and happily existed between the two countries, and has caused a feeling of distrust to enter into the breasts of grave and thinking men, whose practice has ever been to cultivate a good understanding with the United States, not only from motives of interest, but from feelings of inclination and duty; men, who would not hitherto believe that a country, the permanency of whose establishments was still a problem, would prematurely and wilfully endanger them, by a direct departure from those just, moral, and equitable principles which alone could give them security, and render them prosperous and happy. War, and its probable results, we regret to observe, are now freely and even carelessly discussed by our republican neighbours, and the belligerent spirit encouraged, instead of denounced, by many of their statesmen, journalists, and reviewers; their results calculated with commercial, if not with logical precision, and the downfall of British dominion in America foretold as a necessary consequence of hostilities between the two countries. But let us reflect for a moment upon the *probable* effects of such an unnatural contest at the present juncture of affairs, and see how far the Americans are justified in coming to this hasty and absurd conclusion.—England is confessedly at this moment the most powerful nation on the face of the globe, famed, as Monsieur Thiers was compelled to admit, for the extent of her resources, spirit, perseverance, and indomitable courage.

Imagine this power, that but recently bid defiance to the whole world, now at peace with Europe, coming down in her might against the weak and impoverished States of the great Republican Union! What, we ask, would, what *must* be the result of a contest so fearfully unequal? We do not wish to be misunderstood,—we have no desire to indulge in unnecessary reflections upon the weakness of our neighbours, nor to underrate their power, and many admirable qualities as a people. We grant them brave, enterprising, energetic, fertile in the invention of resources, admirable adepts in the discovery of expedients, and, upon the whole, faithful and attached to their Government; nor can we close our eyes to the splendid prospect of their future greatness, if they wisely cultivate the arts of peace; continue to

disseminate education amongst their citizens; to extend their commerce, and develop the vast resources of their most beautiful country, instead of indulging in wild visions of territorial aggrandizement, and fanciful schemes of conquest which can never be realized; but we warn them as christians, we caution them as brothers, descended from one common stock, against the folly, the madness, of plunging into difficulties with a people, the genius of whose constitution is peace, but whose united arm can hurl the thunderbolt of war with terrific and desolating effect. We hate war! As the great Lord Clarendon says:—"Of all God's judgments, war is the most terrible, the most destructive. It breaks in like a hungry wolf. It tramples upon all justice, and subdues and extinguishes all natural affections, and contemns and triumphs over religion itself!" We love peace, for without it happiness is but an empty name, but we love our country better, and that wise Providence who has instilled into us a desire for happiness, and an aversion to misery, has also imparted to us a spirit of resistance, the moral operation of which establishes and consolidates the existence and power of Empires. A principle which leads us to maintain those social and political rights, which the same Providence has enabled us to acquire by the exercise of our moral, physical, and intellectual faculties. Recent events have in some degree aroused this forcible principle of our nature. We have witnessed the slaughter of our peaceable fellow-subjects by armed ruffians from the neighbouring States, who, having escaped by flight the immediate punishment due to their crimes, openly and at large glory in their iniquity in the presence of American citizens, without a voice being raised in remonstrance and denunciation against them. We have witnessed at home and in times of peace, all the calamities and sufferings of war. We have seen our fellow-subjects abroad arrested and imprisoned upon charges, not only indefensible at common law, by reason of the infamous characters of the deponents, but in palpable opposition to every principle of natural and national law. All these things we have hitherto borne, but the consequences they involve, it must be confessed, are of a seriously grave, portentous, and complex nature; still we look with confidence towards the good sense of the great masses of the American people for a renewed spirit of conciliation and good will