

eventually, as a punishment to the guilty; and are 500,000 persons to be starved, and a property of 60 millions to be rendered unprofitable and precarious, that America may lose the advantage of selling them food and necessaries? Policy, religion, and humanity, reprobate the idea!

To conclude: In private life, it is not the man who is injured; but he that gives the injury, that seldom forgives. This, however, is the peculiar characteristic of base and ignoble minds; for such only are guilty of unprovoked and premeditated mischief. Mistake, indeed, is the lot of our nature, and the wisest and greatest of men are not exempted from it; but conviction on such minds produces, not malignity or revenge, but acknowledgment and reparation. When unretracted error hardens into obstinacy, and disappointed ambition is degraded into malice—these are signs of a fatal degeneracy; of a conduct not merely erroneous, but proceeding from principles depraved and corrupt. It is with communities as with individuals. We were once a people renowned for generosity and magnanimity.—To the preservation of that character, exemption from error never was supposed immutably necessary. Our public conduct has indeed been dreadfully fallible, and we have much to answer for, and much to repair:—but, if public virtue be not wholly gone from us; if we still wish to be venerable among the nations of the earth, let us, above all things, discard, in the