

to hostile engagements against us, she had certainly forfeited all right to this satisfaction ; which we assured her, in the most solemn manner, she should most amply receive, as soon as she had cleared up our just suspicions on that head. This short delay too could be of no bad consequence to Spain.

From these observations, it appears, that the publication of these papers could by no means have thrown any light upon the merits of the war with Spain, and therefore that the suppression of them could not be with a view to keep us in the dark in that matter.

But the irrelative nature of these papers to the real merits of the rupture, is not the only reason that justifies the not publishing them ; because, had it been proposed to lay before parliament, the full and perfect grounds of the old disputes, whole volumes must have been published, in order to set forth in a proper manner the pretensions, claims, and rights of both states. The histories