

that element, exhibit satisfactory demonstration of their native prowess and skill, and excite vain regret, for the neglect to foster this natural and precious safeguard and ornament of the nation. Still it was not to be concealed, that in war, with our disparity of force, our commerce must become a prey to our enemy. Canada, far from offering inducements to conquest, would prove a fatal present, if it should be ceded by grant. The aggressions of Britain were last in order, least in degree, and accompanied by the benefit arising from the convoy of our ships, and the protection every where afforded against French depredations. Her interests, in many particulars, coincide with those of our own country. Her land was the birthplace of our ancestors ; her religion, her language, her laws, are ours ; and her downfall would draw after it the destruction of civil liberty throughout the world. If then a preference was due in entering the lists for honor to any nation, it was due to her. At peace with Great Britain, we should now have shared largely in the commerce of the world, and continued to be a prosperous and united people. In short, all the motives of prudence, justice and patriotism, which are characteristic of sound policy, forbade this unhappy controversy in a tone so loud, that we are compelled to look to other causes. These may be comprised in the fixed determination of those who displaced the friends, and undermined the policy of Washington, to retain power, and as subservient to this object, to cherish the prejudices which grew out of the revolutionary war, as a convenient and ready means of popular excitement. Hence too probably, the uniformly cold, captious, and ungracious deportment towards one nation, and the tame and tolerant and submissive attitude towards another.

We are duly impressed by your Excellency's suggestion, that the extension of territorial limits was

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