

grounds of agreement, whereon your Majesty can suffer the Americans to meet your Ministers, or to attend such congress, shall be settled by some preliminary negotiation, your Majesty will never acquiesce in sending your Minister to any congress into which their agents are admitted as Ministers. This must be an act of your own, in which no foreign Power can interfere, so long as the Americans are your subjects.

This memorial on this point, from precedents of what hath been done in the like case, such at least as may exculpate his presumption, endeavours to seek those grounds on which the way to peace may be cleared and plained.

He would not dare to hold in your Majesty's presence, an opinion that any such treaty should be held with rebellant subjects, did not the following precedent shew that an English Sovereign had so reasoned in the like case. In the year 1575, Queen Elizabeth offered her office of mediation* to Philip King of Spain, to the purpose of forming some *compromise* between him and his subjects: and sending Sir Henry Cobham on the occasion,

* Carte, Cambden, &c.