

for the vindication of my own character, conduct, and motives, in attempting to determine the merits and dispel the perplexities of this dispute, I now proceed, without further preface or delay, to enter on the field of explanation and decision. And here, in the audible and free communication, and the open conspicuous prospect of the great and general amphitheatre of nations, I avow myself constrained in justice, to give my direct and unequivocal declaration and opinion on the side of the American party in this litigation. I am constrained to acknowledge, that every feature of the British claim so visibly and palpably betrays the stamp of artificial and recent origin, as to seal the lips of every conscientious and enlightened man who attempts to speak in its defence. I am constrained to deprecate, with horror and disdain, the dark, the damnable, perverse, and baleful doctrine of misguided ethical philosophy, which tolerates an act of iniquity and fraud, *if such act be the act of a nation*; which designates extortion by the title of refined policy; if a nation, as one man, have determined to act in concert as *unanimous confederate extortioners*; which covers political villainy with gaudy epithets, and hides the infamy and shame of a people in the frivolous delusions of insignificant verbal vanity; which encourages the national and public perpetration of deeds, the doom and consequence of which, to the performer, if performed by one individual, would eject him, as a vile, abhorred, and solitary fugitive, abroad upon the face of the earth. I am constrained to acknowledge, that if the *lion* be correctly taken for a symbol of the nobler characteristics of the British nation, the same analogy also too unhappily and closely prevails, in respect of some other less attractive traits of character which mark the royal quadruped; I am constrained to express my fear, that, if considered in reference to such a comparison, the acts of that nation have more than once betrayed a propensity — *royal in cupidity, and more than royal in rapacity*.

In the examination of the question of the frontier, which I propose to undertake, on scientific principles, in the subsequent part of this letter, many mathematical theorems are involved, of so technical a nature, that I should be guilty of gross and