

and new doctrines, diminish the strength which we possess. Let us not establish maxims which are condemned by the history of all ages. Our empire in India is vast, and must be managed in the way of other empires. We must exist as a great state. Without croaking, it may be observed that our government is upon a dangerous experiment, and we may have cause to repent of the operation of the new principles. They have done no good yet. The assertion that we have been immoderate and aggressive is very untrue. We have, I am sure, been more moderate than any state placed in the same circumstances ever was before. I will be content to have this question decided by the natives of this country.

I do not like, in the existing policy, the inclination evident in the Governor-General's despatches to reduce every question to the consideration of mere expediency, and to give no weight to character and honor; to put out of view our proud pre-eminence, and to act as a petty, weak, temporising state. This is carried so far, and all objections are made so trifling when immediate convenience directs, as to amount in some instances (*vide* the despatches which assume the right to dissolve our alliances with the Rana of Gohud and the Rajah of Jyepore, without the consent of those allies), in my opinion, to a positive breach of faith. This policy, at least, operates to the injury of our reputation. The native powers of India understand the law of nations on a broad scale, though they may not adhere to it; but they are not acquainted with the nice quirks upon which our finished casuists would draw up a paper to establish political rights.

Our name is high, but these acts must lower it. And a natural consequence is, that we shall not again be trusted with confidence.

I would wish to see our government feelingly alive to points of honor, and less tenacious of questions of argumentative right. I would wish it to act in cases, such as the two mentioned, more according to the expectations which the native states are authorised to form, than to the letter of our own law.