

truce will, I trust, obviate, to some extent, the evils of the former precedent of perfidy and injustice. There is nothing dishonorable in *doing justice* to Great Britain—nothing humiliating. The dishonor and humiliation consist in having withheld it from Mexico. It is better for our youthful nation of free institutions, that an occasion has arisen thus early to reinstate its character by rectifying its policy, than, after persisting in error for a series of years, to confess and correct it, perhaps after fruitless and exhausting contests.

Am I not justified, then, in maintaining that, had the same promptness and energy been displayed by the Government, in behalf of Mexico, whilst her Province was in revolt, which it has displayed in behalf of Great Britain, now that a Province of hers is in that state, the present difficulties would, in human probability, not have existed? Would not our citizens have been taught to respect the laws and their duty, instead of violating both, under the impunity which like conduct towards Mexico had experienced? Were they not, by the previous passiveness of the Government, in substance told that their sympathy (perhaps commendable in itself) might, without impropriety, be exercised by fighting for others the battles of revolt? Did they not thus, in the first instance, thrust themselves into this Canadian revolt, with scarcely a suspicion of illegality?

If, sir, the indignation of mankind could fasten exclusively on the administration, by whom this pernicious policy has been practised, I should experience the less sensibility: it might sink into quiet infamy, without a tear of mine, and hardly a regret over its fall. But the national honor is implicated, and, unfortunately, tarnished by the process which has infamized the hands to which it was committed.

My purpose, sir, in rising, was not to discuss now the merits of the subject to which the President's message immediately relates; but to offer my opinion of the principles and considerations by which the two Powers ought to be, and, I think, must be, governed in its adjustment; and to avail myself of the earliest occasion that presented to recall the attention, not only of Congress and the country, but of the administration itself, to the unfortunate and disastrous policy which marked our relations with Mexico during the Texas revolt; to the striking contrast it exhibited with our present policy towards Great Britain; to the expectation which our citizens on the frontier naturally entertained, that, as the laws and their obligations were the same, the course of the administration would be the same, by allowing similar impunity to similar violations; to the precipitate change in its policy by the administration, and the attempt it now makes to cast the whole blame on citizens whom it has substantially betrayed into their present proceedings; and to the responsibility of the administration for whatever of outrage has occurred on the Canada frontier, either by or against our people, arising from the fair operation of remote causes, to be found in the pernicious example it had previously set in regard to Mexico.

Sir, neither nations nor individuals can be too early or profoundly penetrated with the sentiment, that inflexible justice to others, under all conceivable circumstances, is their true glory as well as interest. An immediate and temporary advantage may be gained, as experience has shown, by its violation; but experience has equally shown that, sooner or later, in some form or other, through the wise though often inscrutable dispensations of a great Providence, retribution will come, as it ought to. The application of that sentiment to the present conjuncture is simple and easy. For the injuries which *are admitted* by the President to have been done Great Britain by our citizens, we must, in proper time and form, afford her justice. The attack