

During the period of the American war, there was very great distress in the districts of England in which the cotton manufactories were situated, and in which that branch of industry was being carried on. But there was also profound sorrow, at the same time, in the royal household. The people of Lancashire were suffering greatly in consequence of lack of employment, and from the distress which their failure to obtain work produced; but they also knew that there was distress in the palace, for the Queen was, at the same time, deploring the loss of Her Royal Consort, who had been very dear to her, and in whose society she had enjoyed great happiness, and they knew well that her afflictions were even greater than their own.

Her Majesty's efforts, during the whole period of her reign, were always directed towards the preservation of peace, consistent with the just rights and the honour of the great empire of which she was the head. Her great influence, her good sense, and her patience, were always turned to account for the preservation of peace, and the prevention of the horrors incident to war. During the civil war in the neighbouring republic, our neighbours were not unfrequently mistaken in their views as to the rights and duties of other states, under the circumstances, and were not always reasonable in their demands. Doctrines which were at one time recognized by them as well settled principles of international law, were thrown aside when they interfered with the interests of the moment. When war arose between two sections of the republic, those who were in charge of the affairs of the north were disposed to maintain that there was no war, although they insisted upon exercising the rights which belong to a belligerent, and which, unless war existed, they could not claim. Her Majesty and her advisers were most anxious that nothing should be done inconsistent with the duties that pertained to the United Kingdom as a neutral state. Where blockades were established, and where a right of search arose, their desire was that these should be respected, and that nothing should be done to which the president and his advisers could reasonably take exception. But the proclamation of the Queen which was intended to secure from British subjects proper respect for the claim to belligerent

rights on the part of the north, was complained of, as if it were an unfriendly act, conferring upon the revolutionary government, powers which otherwise they could not claim. It was not unnatural that those upon whom the active duties of administration devolved, should be irritated at this unreasonable course; but Her Majesty's great patience, and her great toleration for those who were placed in circumstances that were entirely novel to them, and who were greatly annoyed by unlooked for divisions and conflicts amongst their own people, did not a little towards preserving the peace, and maintaining, on the whole, a condition of mutual good-will, between the governments of the two great Anglo-Saxon States.

During Her Majesty's reign, British authority was extended and consolidated in India. When the Sepoy rebellion arose, the deeds of barbarity that were committed by those who led that rebellious movement, excited the deepest horror, and the fiercest resentment in the minds of the people in every other part of the empire; and there was a demand for vengeance upon those who had perpetrated the most shocking cruelties known in modern warfare; and Her Majesty alone, of all those having the supreme direction of affairs, preserved her self-control, and her desire, by humane means, to win back those who had gone so far astray, and by her moderation, she did much to secure the affections of those who, it was supposed, were in sympathy with that movement. It was proposed on that occasion to proclaim the Act of August, 1858, and the principles upon which India was thereafter to be governed. A draft of that proclamation was prepared, under the direction of Lord Derby, and was transmitted to the Queen, who was then on a visit to the continent. Her Majesty was of the opinion that it was not conceived in the spirit or clothed in the language appropriate to a state paper of great importance, and so her objections were written out in detail for the consideration of Lord Derby. She informed His Lordship: 'The Queen would be glad, if Lord Derby would write it out himself, in his excellent language, bearing in mind that it is a female sovereign who speaks to more than 100,000,000 of eastern people, on assuming the direct government over them, and after a bloody civil war, giving them pledges which her future