

all usurpations of power, and it most especially concerns the people of the United States, who are said to be emphatically a law-abiding people, to watch the progress of legislation; for legislators are their sovereigns in fact, and they may be much more easily enslaved by insidious laws involving general principles fatal to liberty, than by great standing armies of hirelings led by ambitious rulers. Under pretence of suppressing piracy, and preserving neutrality, our government, stimulated by a passion for power, or a vehement desire to obtain the good graces of that of England, and the good word of its multifarious scribes, may embarrass the lawful commerce of the country, by recognizing the right of search on the high seas, on suspicion; arrest a citizen in the prosecution of his lawful business on the land, to be imprisoned and tried, on suspicion; declare him a pirate and outlaw, on suspicion; and finally, employ that naval force whose proper business is to protect the commerce of the country, and defend its rights, in embarrassing that very commerce, and making war on its own citizens, to preserve peace with Spain.

The truth is, that there is, at this moment, no nation or government so completely under foreign influence, as that of the United States. They seem to have no opinion of their own. British reviews and newspapers, known to be the paid oracles or servile dependents of some one or other member of the British ministry, the British aristocracy, or the British Church, give the tone to our commercial cities, whence public opinion is disseminated through all parts of the Union, and furnish our rulers and statesmen with both argument and authority. The "Edinburgh and Quarterly," the "London Times," the "London Morning Chronicle," and the "London News," are our instructors in the law of nations, the principles of liberty, and the duties of philanthropy. If one of our distinguished statesmen wishes to enforce the adoption of a particular measure or line of policy, instead of inquiring whether it is favorable to the interests and happiness, or suitable to the present condition of the country, or in accordance with the principles on which this government is based, he cites the example of England, and fortifies himself in the impregnable intrenchments of British precedents. We all know, and all acknowledge, that the system of artificial expedients adopted by that government, to the entire exclusion, as far as possible, of those great influences through whose instrumentality Providence governs the world, has been productive of consequences fatal to the habits, morals, and happiness of a great portion of the people. We all know, that it has resulted in a vast system of monopoly, and converted that labor which is the source of all national wealth, into a half-starved pauper, dependent on the crumbs that fall from the rich man's table. In short, we all know, from their own acknowledgments, their own official statements, that there is less of happiness, and more actual physical suffering and privation among the people of England and Ireland, than in any other region under the sun; that England is in fact bankrupt, because she owes more than she can ever pay; that, so far from possessing a shadow of practical freedom, her government is one of military despotism, which alone prevents a violent revolution; and that she can only keep her head above water by exacting tribute from the world, and outraging the rights of every nation too weak to resist her aggressions. Add to this, that the government of England is totally different from that of the United States in its fundamental principles; that its geographical position is contrasted with ours; that