

These newspapers and reviews are the great oracles of our commercial cities, as previously observed. Nine times in ten, the first news we get from Europe is copied from the London Times, the great Choryphæus of the civilized world, whose editor, if not a jesuit, is certainly a disciple of Ignatius Loyola. He is a perfect Mrs. Candour in politics, and, more than any avowed and open enemy of the United States, has injured their reputation, by occasionally pretending to excuse or defend them. Now and then, indeed, he gives them a good word, and affects a marked civility, but it is only to give the more effect to his sarcasms and insinuations, and more venom and point to his sly malignity. Yet the opinions and statements of this paper, being tacitly adopted by our commercial city organs, or at least copied without contradiction and without comment, are disseminated through every vein and artery of the country. They ascend our rivers; they fly on our steamers and railroads; they penetrate the deep forests of the West, and everywhere propagate British opinions and British politics, both which are equally at war with the principles of liberty and the interests of our country. These organs of British opinions and British interests, we firmly believe, have at this moment far more influence over what is called the most enlightened class in the United States, and especially over our doughty whig statesmen, than the lessons of wisdom and experience coming from a Jefferson, a Madison, or a Franklin. Under this influence, the present whig administration has displayed a freezing indifference, if not hostility, to any movement in behalf of the independence of Cuba, and that too before the conduct of the degenerate créoles afforded grounds for the belief that they were content under their present colonial degradation, and did not aspire to become independent. But however appearances may justify this conclusion, we are not prepared to acquiesce in it implicitly.

In the first place, it is believed there is no American citizen, imbued with the great principles of liberty and equality, and who is acquainted with Cuba, who will pretend to deny that the system of government inflicted on the people of that island, is not, at least according to their ideas, oppressive, insulting, and tyrannical, inasmuch as it entails civil disabilities and degradation on them in almost every form. It is the despotism of a monarch, distant thousands of miles, administered through the instrumentality of dependent governors, the tenure of whose office is implicit obedience to the behests of the sovereign. In the choice of his officers, and of all those exercising authority under him, the people have no more voice or influence than those of the moon. On the contrary, there is one instance, at least, of a captain-general being recalled, for seeking to make himself popular, by consulting the wishes of the people. This, if we don't mistake, was at least the case with General Tacón. Be this as it may: the captain-general of Cuba is entirely independent of the people. If he oppresses them, or if he outrages the laws of humanity, and becomes another Haynan, by butchering his prisoners in cold blood, and without trial, it is enough that he acts by command of his sovereign, whose authority is pleaded as a full justification, and whose will is law.

Now we would ask our countrymen, at least those who hold that all lawful authority emanates from the people, and should be exercised for their benefit, whether they believe, whether they can conceive the possibility of a people thus circumstanced, being so insensible to the common feelings of our nature, so besotted with a devotion to arbitrary power, so