

ish in the district jointly claimed by the two Governments) that objection was not directed against the exercise of jurisdiction on the part of Great Britain, (which was then, and had long been notorious,) but against the depredations of individuals; such as the cutting of wood, and other acts tending to render the districts of less value to the party to whom it should finally be assigned.

In the face of this accumulated evidence that Great Britain has never yet been practically divested of her ancient rights of jurisdiction, it cannot reasonably be contended that the national character of the territory has undergone any change since the period antecedent to the treaty of 1783. It has, indeed, been formally admitted, both by Great Britain and the United States, that the right of eventual sovereignty over that district is a question remaining in doubt; but it is consistent with an acknowledged rule of law, that, where such a doubt exists, the party who has once clearly had a right, and who has retained actual possession, shall continue to hold it until the question at issue may be decided. This territory, therefore, ought, upon every principle, to be considered, for the present at least, as subject to the authority and jurisdiction of Great Britain; unless treaties subsequent to that of 1783 shall have imposed an obligation on her to pursue a different line of conduct with respect to it.

None of the treaties, however, posterior to that of 1783, alluded to the question of jurisdiction; and from their silence on this point, it may fairly be inferred that the United States, who cannot be supposed to have been ignorant of the acts of British authority which have been authorized throughout the territory in question for so many years, did not entertain any doubt of the right of Great Britain in that respect. For if such had been the case, they would surely have stipulated for the introduction into the latter treaties, especially into that of Ghent, of some provision respecting the exercise of that authority against which Mr. Lawrence is now instructed to protest.

The undersigned cannot acquiesce in Mr. Lawrence's extension to this question of jurisdiction, of that rule of forbearance which has been inculcated on both sides, with regard to the exercise of other acts of sovereignty, not necessary for the due administration of the territory now under consideration. With respect to such jurisdiction, the undersigned must be permitted to observe, that the circumstances of the two countries are extremely different. The United States have never been in possession of the territory; their title to it under the treaty of 1783, is not admitted by Great Britain; and every act of jurisdiction, done by the United States, is an assumption of an authority which they did not previously possess. On the other hand, Great Britain has never parted with possession; the jurisdiction which she now exercises is the same which belonged to her before the treaty of 1783, and which she has ever since that period continued to exercise within the limits of the territory in question. The undersigned need hardly point out to Mr. Lawrence, that there is a very material difference between suspending a jurisdiction hitherto exercised, and forbearing to introduce a jurisdiction hitherto unknown; and that, while the United States offer to forbear from assuming a jurisdiction which they have never exercised, they are demanding that Great Britain should lay down a jurisdiction which she has ever maintained: and it may be proper here to notice the erroneous opinion to which His Majesty's Government, in common with the United States, are disposed to ascribe the recent attempts of the State of Maine to introduce its authority along the frontier in question; viz: that forbearance on the side of the United States might be construed into an admission of Great Britain to the possession of the frontier which she claims. Such apprehensions are without foundation. No such inference could fairly be drawn from such forbearance. But were it otherwise, how much more would the position of Great Britain be prejudiced by her relinquishment of a jurisdiction hitherto invariably maintained?

The extent of obligation, which in the opinion of His Majesty's Government is imposed on both parties by the treaty of Ghent, with regard to this territory, is, that the question of title shall remain precisely in the same state in which it stood at the date of that treaty; and that neither party shall do any act within its limits, by which the claim of the other, as it then stood may be prejudiced, or by which the country may be rendered less valuable to that State to which the possession of it may be ultimately awarded.

It is with this view that the Provincial Government of New-Brunswick have, with the approbation of the British Government, discontinued from issuing licences for cutting wood within the district, and have abstained from all other acts not absolutely necessary for the peaceable government

of the country; and the undersigned is happy to have this opportunity of acknowledging the existence of a corresponding disposition on the part of the General Government of the United States.

The United States farther propose, that until the arbitrator shall have given his decision, neither power shall exercise any jurisdiction in the territory. His Majesty's Government are persuaded that the Government of the United States will, on further consideration, see the manifold and serious injuries which would result to both powers from the proposed arrangement. It would make the districts along the frontier a common refuge for the outcasts of both nations; and introduce among the inhabitants, who have long lived happily under the jurisdiction of Great Britain, lawless habits, by which it would hereafter be extremely difficult to reclaim them. It would thus render these districts of less value to the State to which they may be ultimately assigned; while, by the pernicious contact and example of a vitiated population, it would materially endanger the tranquillity and good government of the adjoining dominions of His Majesty and of the United States.

In declining, however, to accede to this proposition of the United States, the undersigned fulfils with pleasure the commands of his Sovereign, in disclaiming, at the same time, in the most unequivocal manner, all intentions of influencing the decision of the arbitrator by any argument founded upon the continued exercise of this jurisdiction since the period at which the right was first questioned by the United States.

The undersigned will conclude by observing, that, as no practical inconvenience has been alleged by Mr. Lawrence to exist, and as His Majesty has renounced any advantage which might be derived in the discussion from the continued exercise of jurisdiction during the period of arbitration, the British Government conceive that, under all the circumstances, it would clearly be more just, as well as more to the advantage of both countries, to allow the whole question to remain upon the footing on which it has hitherto stood, until its final settlement by the award of the arbitrator.

The undersigned requests Mr. Lawrence to accept assurance of his high consideration.

ABERDEEN.

William Lawrence Esq., &c. &c. &c.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Delivered by General Andrew Jackson, on being sworn into office, as President of the United States, 4th March 1829.

FELLOW CITIZENS.—About to undertake the arduous duties that I have been appointed to perform, by the choice of a free people, I avail myself of this customary and solemn occasion, to express the gratitude which their confidence inspires, and to acknowledge the accountability which my situation enjoins. While the magnitude of their interests convinces me that no thanks can be adequate to the honour they have conferred, it admonishes me that the best return I can make, is the zealous dedication of my humble abilities to their service and their good.

As the instrument of the Federal Constitution, it will devolve on me, for a stated period, to execute the laws of the United States; to superintend their foreign and their confederate relations; to manage their revenue; to command their forces; and, by communications to the Legislature, to watch over and promote their interests generally. And the principles of action by which I shall endeavour to accomplish this circle of duties, is now proper for me briefly to explain.

In administering the laws of Congress, I shall keep steadily in view, the limitations as well as the extent of the Executive power; trusting thereby to discharge the functions of my office without transcending its authority. With foreign nations it will be my study to preserve peace, and to cultivate friendship on fair and honourable terms; and in the adjustment of any difference that may exist or arise, to exhibit the forbearance becoming a powerful nation, rather than the sensibility belonging to a galling people.

In such measures as I may be called on to pursue, in regard to the rights of the separate States, I hope to be animated by a proper respect for those sovereign members of the Union; taking care not to confound the powers they have reserved to themselves, with those they have granted to the confederacy.

The management of the public revenue—that so important a branch of government—is among the most delicate and difficult of its duties; and I

my official solicitude. Under every aspect in which it can be considered, it would appear that advantage must result from the observance of a strict and faithful economy. This I shall aim at the more anxiously, both because it will facilitate the extinguishment of the national debt, the unnecessary duration of which is incompatible with real independence; and because it will counteract that tendency to public and private profligacy, which a profuse expenditure of money by the Government, is but too apt to engender. Powerful auxiliaries to the attainment of this desirable end, are to be found in the regulations provided by the wisdom of Congress, for the specific appropriation of public money, and the prompt accountability of public officers.

With regard to a proper selection of the subjects of impost, with a view to revenue, it would seem to me that the spirit of equity, caution, and compromise, in which the constitution was formed, requires that the great interests of agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, should be equally favoured; and that, perhaps, the only exception to this rule, should consist in the peculiar encouragement of any products of either of them that may be found essential to our national independence.

Internal improvement, and the diffusion of knowledge, so far as they can be promoted by the constitutional acts of the Federal Government, are of high importance.

Considering standing armies as dangerous to free governments, in time of peace, I shall not seek to enlarge our establishment, nor disregard the salutary lesson of political experience, which teaches that the military should be held subordinate to the civil power. The gradual increase of our navy, whose flag has displayed, in distant climes, our skill in navigation and our fame in arms; the preservation of our forts, arsenals, and dock-yards; and the introduction of progressive improvements in the discipline and science of both branches of our military service, are so plainly prescribed by prudence, that I should be excused for omitting their mention, sooner than for enlarging on their importance. But the bulwark of our defence is the national militia, which, in the present state of our intelligence and population, must render us invincible. As long as our government is administered for the good of the people, and is regulated by their will; as long as it secures to us the rights of person and property, liberty of conscience, and of the press, it will be worth defending; and so long as it is worth defending, a patriotic militia will cover it with an impenetrable ægis. Partial injuries and occasional mortifications we may be subjected to, but a million of armed freemen, possessed of the means of war, can never be conquered by a foreign foe. To any just system, therefore, calculated to strengthen this national safeguard of the country, I shall cheerfully lend all the aid in my power.

It will be my sincere and constant desire to observe towards the Indian tribes within our limits, a just policy; and to give that humane and considerate attention, to their rights and their wants, which are consistent with the habits of our government, and the feelings of our people.

The recent demonstration of public sentiment inscribes, on the list of executive duties, in characters too legible to be overlooked, the task of reform; which will require particularly, the correction of those abuses which have brought the patronage of the Federal Government into conflict with the freedom of elections, and the counteraction of those causes which have disturbed the rightly course of appointment, and have placed, or continued power in, unfaithful or incompetent hands.

In the performance of a task thus generally delineated, I shall endeavour to select men whose diligence and talents will ensure, in their respective stations, able and faithful co-operation; depending, for the advancement of public service, more on the integrity and zeal of the public officers, than on their numbers.

A diffidence, perhaps too just, in my own qualifications, will teach me to look with reverence to the examples of public virtue left by my illustrious predecessors, and with veneration to the lights that flow from the mind that founded, and the mind that reformed, our system. The same diffidence induces me to hope for instruction and aid from the co-ordinate branches of the government, and for the indulgence and support of my fellow-citizens generally. And a firm reliance on the goodness of that Power whose providence mercifully protected our national infancy, and has since upheld our liberties