

therefore a great grievance that, when any difficulty occurs, no matter how unimportant, which might be readily settled at the moment, we should be obliged to resort to Madrid, especially when the very first step to be taken there is to refer it back to Cuba.

The truth is that Cuba, in its existing colonial condition, is a constant source of injury and annoyance to the American people. It is the only spot in the civilized world, where the African slave-trade is tolerated; and we are bound by treaty with Great Britain, to maintain a naval force on the coast of Africa, at much expense, both of life and treasure, solely for the purpose of arresting slavers bound to that island.

The truth is, that this fine country, blessed with a productive soil and a benign climate, has been reduced by civil dissensions to a condition almost hopeless anarchy and imbecility. It would be in vain for this government to attempt to enforce payment in money of the claims of American citizens, now amounting to more than ten million dollars, against Mexico, because she is destitute of all pecuniary means to satisfy these demands.

enments shall be established in these Mexican States, capable of performing their duties to the United States, restraining the lawless and preserving peace along the border. I do not doubt that this measure will be viewed in a friendly spirit by the governments and people of Chihuahua and Sonora, as it will prove equally effectual for the protection of their citizens on that remote and lawless frontier, as for citizens of the United States.

authorizing the President, under such restrictions as they may deem proper, to employ the land and naval forces of the United States in preventing the transit from being obstructed or closed by lawless violence, and in protecting the lives and property of American citizens traveling thereupon, requiring at the same time that these forces shall be withdrawn the moment the danger shall have passed away.

It is hoped the enlightened Government of the Emperor will adopt this wise, just and equal policy. In that event there is good reason to believe that the commerce between the two countries will greatly increase much to the advantage of both.

It has been made known to the world by my predecessors, that the United States have, on several occasions, endeavored to acquire Cuba from Spain by honorable negotiation.

It is a high way in which they themselves have little interest, when compared with the vast interests of the rest of the world. Whilst their rights of sovereignty ought to be respected, it is this important passage shall not be interrupted by the civil wars and revolutionary outbreaks, which have so frequently occurred in that region.

Our minister was instructed, therefore, to lose no time in expressing to those governments the deep regret with which the President had witnessed this inattention to the just claims of the United States, and in demanding their prompt and satisfactory adjustment.

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