

It was stated at the commencement of the last Session, that a great effort was then making in Spain and Portugal, to improve the conditions of the people of those countries, and that it appeared to be conducted with extraordinary moderation. It need scarcely be remarked, that the result has been so far, very different from what was then anticipated. Of events in that quarter of the Globe, with which we have so much intercourse, and from which we derive our origin, we have always been anxious and interested spectators. The Citizens of the United States cherish sentiments the most friendly, in favor of the liberty and happiness of their fellow men on that side of the Atlantic. In the wars of the European powers, in matters relating to themselves, we have never taken any part, nor does it comport with our policy, so to do. It is only when our rights are invaded, or seriously menaced, that we resent injuries, or make preparations for our defence. With the movements in this Hemisphere we are of necessity more immediately connected, and by causes which must be obvious to all enlightened and impartial observers. The political system of the allied powers is essentially different in this respect from that of America. This difference pro-

ceeds from that which exists in their respective
Governments, and to the defence of ours, which
has been achieved by the loss of so much blood and
treasure, and matured by the wisdom of their
most enlightened Citizens, and under which we
have enjoyed unexampled felicity, this whole
nation is devoted. We are it therefore to concur
and to the amicable relations existing between
the United States and those powers, to declare that
we should consider any attempt on their part to
extend their system to any portion of this Hemis-
phere, as dangerous to our peace and safety.
With the existing Colonies or dependencies of any
European power we have not interfered, and shall
not interfere. But with the Governments who have
declared their Independence and maintained
it, and whose Independence we have, on great
consideration, and on just principles, acknowledged,
we could not allow any interposition for the purpose
of opposing them, or controlling in any other
manner, their destiny, by any European power,
in any other light, than as the manifestation of
an unfriendly disposition towards the United
States. In the war between those new Governments
and Spain, we declared our neutrality, at the
time of their recognition, and to this we have
adhered, and shall continue to adhere, provided
no change shall occur, which in the judgment
of the competent authorities of this Government shall

make