dition will to some degree prevail, I have never ceased to sympathise with their sufferings, and would have contributed to their relief in my humble power, had my means have admitted of it.

Since these persons are released, permit me to call your attention to the decision on this subject at the last session of Congress, and the principles on which the decision prevailed. Those persons, taken by the public authority of a Spanish province to a hostile expedition against a friendly power, were released and condemned for the act. Whilst suffering under the punishment inflicted by a tribunal of their country, on application was made by them to the government of the United States, for assistance for their relief. A committee of the House of Representatives reported in favor of the relief, the report was negatived by the casting vote of the Speaker, and then was introduced a bill, which, if it had been adopted, would not only have formed a dangerous precedent, but would have impaired the character of the nation in the eyes of the world.

We are proud of the character of our nation from that part of its conduct, with which we are acquainted, and that conduct has been, I believe, invariably. Other nations have had the same means of judging of us, and consequently have shown a deep respect, in instance—I have been credibly informed that in the western coast of South America, they will overrule, being convoyed to the shores of the government, their produce on the coast, and carried on by means of armed vessels; the European convoy does our merchants no injury in this respect, for it is the opinion of the United States are universally unprejudiced and avaricious, and the idea of the means of pillaging all they have in view. Sensitive citizens engaged with foreigners, in the same employ as the Cubans, would not put the people and government of Carracas and the other provinces to blush, if they should be a character equal to our national character? If it is simple character of these men would produce that impression, how much would it not have been enhanced, and would prejudice, which would not have been excited against the country, and Congress interposed for the relief of those men.

Again—the persons were engaged in parts of the United States for the service in which they were employed, whatever with a knowledge of their destination or otherwise is a matter of question. In this circumstance a decision very strikingly contrary to the principles of international law and the American government has been pronounced by a tribunal, and prejudice would not have been excited against this