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-ceeds from that, which exists in their respective
Governments, and to the defence of our own, 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 owe it therefore to Candor,
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 dependences 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 view any interpositions for the purpose
of oppressing them, or controuling 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 judgement
of the competent authorities of this Government shall
make