

pels civilized governments to act under its imperative dictates as exhibited in the popular vote taken in the case of *Savoy* before its annexation to France, and which vote was clamorously demanded of Louis Napoleon as an international obligation by the press, Parliament, oligarchy, churchmen, politicians and people of England, in the jealous hope that the people of Savoy would cast a negative vote to the mortification of the French.

More recently, and to carry out the spirit of this popular and international principle, *Venetia* after being conquered from Austria, was called on to take a formal popular vote before her annexation to the Kingdom of Italy; so that no pretence should be left for opening up future discussions as to the willingness of the people to the annexation and removing effectually any excuse on this question for disturbing the peace of Europe hereafter.

While writing, the telegraph announces the *Government of Canada* "the people of the separate provinces having been called on to vote *for* or *against* the confederation." British injustice by this substantial act, voluntarily admitting the correctness of the principle as regards the Canadas, and at the same time denying it as to Ireland.

The commanding necessity of compelling nations to adhere strictly to this international principle, is fully illustrated by the position which the omission to take a formal vote of the Irish people at the time of the fictitious union between England and Ireland, has placed both countries in, as regards their relations to the sister nations. Governments civilized and uncivilized, whose interests are for the maintenance of peace, without being in any manner parties to this omission, but which, owing to those many besetting complications surrounding national interests, know not at what moment that the Irish people, scattered abroad by the million and fully alive to the international defect of the Union, and exasperated by the last sixty-seven years of brutal legislation and misgovernment of Ireland, by the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain, may burst into a conflagration, involving not only British interests, but also those of innocent and unoffending nations, in a desolating and universal war with every indication of its being a war of retaliation and extermination between the original parties. Because there is no disguising the conclusion that this question "of not having taken the popular vote" of the Irish people in the year 1800, or a refusal on the part of the Crown of Ireland to restore the Irish Parliament *which it has the exclusive right of doing*, by the easy process of taking at some future, but not far distant day, the vote of the people of Ireland *for* or *against* her do-