

Governor General of our Indian possessions, was charged with resuming the Jaghires, the property of the Begums of Oude, promising them compensation which he did not make. A motion was made in the House of Commons to impeach him for this *act of violence and injustice*. In the course of the debate, Mr. Pitt declared, "That there were but *two* principles which could justify a resumption of these Jaghires. To *resume the property* of any *subject*, or of any *Prince* with whom you are in alliance, it *was necessary* that either it should be first *forfeited by delinquency*, or that *impending and immediate political danger* should *authorize* the seizure. But in *either* case *justice* should be observed. For if you seized them as a punishment for a crime, it should be done *with justice*. Could the political emergency be proved, it would certainly acquit Mr. Hastings of the *criminality*. For the necessities of the public safety produced *many* instances of the *justice of possessing private property*, PROVIDED YOU GIVE TO THOSE YOU HAVE DESPOILED AN ADEQUATE COMPENSATION."

He further contended, that the right in the State to take the property of the subject, or an ally, is founded on the compensation to be

be made. "For," says he, "the necessities of the State made it common justice to resume private property, which was always the right of public benefit. When any dangers arose, even to a subject or a prince, self-preservation dictated the lawful possessing of every means to avert the approaching or impending danger. BUT THE CRITERION OF THE RIGHT WAS THE JUSTICE WITH WHICH IT WAS ACCOMPANIED."

"Thus, if such had been the state of affairs, as to render it indispensably necessary to resume the Jaghires, for the immediate preservation of our possessions and territories; AN *adequate compensation* should have been MOST SACREDLY given to the dispossessed."

"If these Jaghires occasioned so much disturbance at Fyzabad, as to threaten broils and contentions, that produced such evils to our State as were necessary should be avoided, the resumption of them was morally and politically just, ATTENDED WITH THE ADEQUATE COMPENSATION."

After contending that no such necessity existed to justify Mr. Hastings in resuming the property