

mission: and, that the only possible method of making them desist from the attempt, is to convince them, not merely by declarations, but by effectual preparations for war, that we are not frightened, and will not submit to be scourged. When they understand this, I am fully persuaded that they will abandon their project. Our negotiation, I believe, will be successful; but the foundation of success must be laid in the House of Representatives; and those foundations must be vigorous and effectual preparations for war. We must consider ourselves as in the presence of a bully, who can be prevented from striking us in no manner but by shewing him that we are able and resolved to return the blow.

Should I, however, mistake in all this, still the same system will be right. Should the views of France be different from what I have supposed; "should the plan of French aggrandizement," to borrow the words of an eloquent speaker in the House of Representatives, require America to be driven into the war, war we shall have, in spite of all our peaceable endeavours to avert it; and, in that case, the sooner we set about serious preparations, the better we shall be able to repel and retort the attack."

Thus, in either case, our course must be the same. Whether France intends to make war upon us, to bully us, or, under the pretence of "just displeasure," to continue her depredations on us for the purpose of injuring England, as long as we will submit to them, still our wisdom lies in speedy and effectual preparation.

Should any ask what are the sacrifices we must incur by a war, and what are our means of becoming formidable to France? I would answer that, as to sacrifices, the greatest we can make is that of our rights and independence; that war is an evil always to be avoided, but infinitely less than national degradation, and submission to the will of a foreign power; that every possible loss of property and lives may be repaired by time and industry, if we preserve our honor and our government; but that these once lost, can never be re-