

order to effect a change in the administration, or a repeal of the measures.

But as this public opinion may be directed or forestalled by artful and designing men, or may be misdirected by error or passion, it is not only the right, but the *duty* of those who believe that such errors exist, to endeavour to correct them.

When, therefore, a party of men, from sinister or from *honest* motives misrepresent the conduct of a foreign nation, present an unnatural and distorted views of facts, appeal to the public passions, attempt to silence all opposition, represent our ability to wage war in a most extravagant light, magnify our means of injuring our enemy, and diminish her power and ability to injure us, and especially if all this be done while the question is still open, and before the Legislature, who are alone authorized to decide it, are convened—it is the most *solemn duty* which a citizen is ever called upon to exercise, to correct such false statements, to remove erroneous impressions, and to endeavour to conduct his fellow-citizens from the mazy labyrinth of error and prejudice, into the paths of light and truth. Such an office I have, with conscious inability, attempted to execute:—Happy, if my feeble efforts shall in any degree contribute to preserve my beloved country from the dangers which surround it.