

The policy of the federalists in this respect was dignified and honourable ; that of the democrats miserably contracted.

Alien and Sedition laws, and Eight per Cent Loan.

The factious clamour excited against the sedition and alien laws, against the eight per cent. loan—which clamour was the principal means of changing the administration, and taking it from the hands of the federalists, to place it in those of the democrats—may be justly reckoned among the sins of the latter party. A candid review of the so-styled sedition law, at the present hour, when the public ferment to which it gave rise, has wholly subsided, will satisfy any reasonable man, that so far from being an outrageous infringement of liberty, as was asserted, it was a measure not merely defensible ; but absolutely necessary and indispensable towards the support of government.* To enable the reader to judge for himself, without the trouble of referring to a volume of the laws, I annex the document itself.

“Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That if any persons shall unlawfully combine or conspire together, with intent to oppose any measure or measures of the government of the United States, which are or shall be directed by proper authority, or to impede the operation of any law of the United States, or to intimidate or prevent any person holding a place or office in or under the government of the United States, from undertaking, performing, or executing his trust or duty ; and if any person or persons, with intent as

* It is but justice to avow that the writer of this book was as ardent in his opposition to, and as much alarmed at the probable consequences of, the alien and sedition laws, as any man in the community. As it requires an extraordinary degree of corporeal sanity to resist the effects of a violent epidemical disorder : so it requires great strength of mind to keep out of the vortex of factious contagion, when prevalent with those whose opinions are generally congenial with our own. Of this strength of mind the writer was destitute, in common with a large portion of his fellow-citizens.