

tended repeal, scores, if not hundreds of our vessels had been seized in French ports, or burnt at sea by French cruisers, while many of their unoffending crews were manacled like slaves, confined in French prisons, or forced on board French ships, to fight against England. In opposition however to all these proofs, our government, with an hardihood and effrontery at which demons might have blushed, persisted in asserting the repeal, and, in revenge against England for not believing them, passed their non-intercourse law, laid their embargo, and now have declared war.

My brethren, if we have any regard for truth and righteousness, what must we think of such pretences for war? The apathy and indifference with which some persons among us seem to receive the annunciation of it is, to me, matter of amazement. Considering that we are the subjects of the Prince of peace, the professors of that religion which breathes peace on earth and good will towards men, the disciples of the meek and lowly Jesus, who have taken his yoke upon us, and entered into the most solemn engagements to imitate and obey him, having in us the same mind that was in him, I am amazed that a general shriek of horror at this deed of our rulers has not been heard from one extremity of our country to the other. For myself, from the moment my ears received the tidings, my mind has been in a constant agony, not so much at the inevitable loss of our temporal prosperity and happiness, and the complicated miseries of war, as at its guilt, its outrage against Heaven, against all truth, honesty, justice, goodness—against all the principles of social happiness. As a teacher of righteousness, as a