

SOLEMN PROTEST.

II CHRON. xiii. 12.

O children of Israel, fight ye not against the Lord God of your fathers ; for ye shall not prosper.

As the dreadful calamity of war has just befallen our country and oppresses all our minds with grief and concern, a discourse upon this subject is, of all others, the most seasonable, as meeting your most anxious thoughts and sure to engage your most earnest attention. The feelings of every man, capable of the least reflection, must be shocked beyond measure by so sudden and unexpected a fall from peace and plenty, ease and comfort, security and enjoyment, into all the privations, the hardships, the burdens, the perils, the distresses, the complicated horrors of war. At this moment, your minds are harassed and your bosoms tortured with the idea of your sons, your husbands, your brothers reluctantly torn from all the scenes and occupations of peace, from all their domestic connexions, enjoyments and pursuits, to be exposed in the tented field, subjected to the rigors of a military life, liable to the numerous and fatal diseases of a camp, and occasionally, to stand as so many marks for the sharp shooters in the hostile army. You anticipate the tingling of your ears at the tidings of one, and