

It is in small points we discern the temper and views of men ; and we intreat our readers to examine carefully the strain of this apology for French outrage.

Towards the close of this letter, Mr. Madison chooses to anticipate that France will complain of *antecedent* violations, to the injury of France, by the government of Great-Britain ; . . he goes further . . he says, "*the fact cannot be denied ;*" that is, in plain English, it is true that G. Britain has been the *aggressor*, and to the injury of France, and adds, "that the French decree may be pronounced a retaliation on the preceding conduct of Great-Britain." . . This we do most solemnly deny ; and as it forms the basis not only of this letter, but of the report of the committee in favor of non-intercourse . . of Mr. John Q. Adams' letter to Mr. Otis, and of all that has been or can be said, in extenuation of the atrocious conduct of France ; we shall devote to it our next and more particular attention. . . We shall, however, make in this place this serious remark, that even if it were true, it is a concession which it was extremely impolitic to make, and more so to publish, since it puts to an end forever, all our claims on France for the effects and depredations committed under the Berlin and Milan decrees

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"The French Decree might on the *same* ground be pronounced a retaliation on the preceding conduct of Great-Britain."

See MADISON's letter to Gen. ARMSTRONG.

THE concession contained in the foregoing extract, is full as mean, and ought to excite as general indignation, as the same gentleman's declaration to Mr. Randolph, "*France wants money, and must have it.*"

The effect of the publication of this concession will be, to bar forever all our claims for redress for captures or injuries sustained under the Berlin and Milan decrees, and to furnish the French with not only pretexts but justifications for any future violations of our rights. It is not, however, my present purpose to display the rashness and impolicy, if not TREACHERY of this conduct ;—it is sufficient to say, that in any other government it would cost the officer his character and employment, if not his life.

It is at present proposed to prove, that this argument and concession furnished to France is wholly unfounded ; and that France herself has never set up any such pretensions, except through the medium of her American servants.

Before we examine the truth of this proposition, it may be useful to consider the force of the terms used by Mr. Madison.