

admits "that commerce will be destroyed by a war, and in its fall will crush its immediate dependents;" but he insults the understandings of us New-England farmers, by insinuating that all the other classes of society will escape its effects. Who are to employ and give bread to the 300,000 mechanicks in our seaport towns, after the merchants are beggared? Who are to pay the banks when all the property of their debtors is annihilated by war? When the banks stop their dividends, and lose part of their capitals, what will become of the widows and orphans who have deposited their little modicum in these publick institutions? When the small country banks fail, who will indemnify the farmers who hold their bills?

What will become of the country traders, and the farmers, who owe them, when the creditors of the beggared merchants call upon them for immediate payment?

It is admitted, by the advocates of war, that commerce will be wholly annihilated; with *that* falls our revenue:—the collection of direct taxes will be found so slow, and so unpopular, and the calls on government will be so much *more pressing* than those of the publick creditors, that the interest of the national debt will be suspended. The party in power, have always been opposed to this class of publick creditors, and though they have as yet paid *punctually*, and have not violated the contract, it is only because they have had ample means, and it was a convenient engine of power;—it was a strong hold over their political enemies.—But create more pressing exigencies, and thousands of honest creditors will be left to starve.—This is what they *formerly* proposed—it would gratify many *secret* wishes.

If a war, then, will annihilate commerce, as the National Intelligencer admits, will ruin 250,000 merchants, beggar all the mechanicks immediately dependant on the merchants, injure some, and produce the failure of many of the banking institutions—if it will destroy our revenue, and oblige the government to suspend the payment of the interest of the national debt—if, moreover, as a necessary consequence, it will cripple, if not bankrupt our insurance companies, can the *farmers* hope to escape the general devastation?

Are there none alive who recollect the effects of our revolution-

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