

In 1806, Bonaparte, having by the conquest of Prussia, got as he supposed, the command of the continent, determined to destroy a rival whom he could not reach by arms, by the destruction of her trade. So far as respected the continent, the plan was easily accomplished. But to make the experiment complete, the co-operation of the United States was indispensably necessary. That co-operation has been obtained from the year 1807 to the present day, but never so completely as he demanded, till we entered into the war. How this has been brought about, the world can never know. What menaces, how much intrigue, solicitation, what promises of *personal support to administration*, if any, can never be known.

We can only judge of publick facts; and from these we infer, that Bonaparte knew that he was so inseparably connected with the power, and so rivetted in the affections of his party here, that he might put them to the severest trials without endangering their loyalty. The Berlin decree subjected every American vessel to capture going to or from a British port. Instead of resistance, not even a remonstrance was made to this act. It has been justly observed in the resolutions of New-York, that our government having assigned the British orders in council as one of the *just causes of war*, have admitted that the Berlin decree was also. How then can they justify themselves for submitting to it?

But Bonaparte found his Berlin decree ineffectual, and he accordingly negotiated with Armstrong an embargo—or rather a monstrous thing, misnamed an embargo, which was permanently to cut off our trade with Britain. That this was settled at Paris, and *merely adopted very loyally by congress*, is proved by the report first reaching us from Paris and Holland. Many merchants in this town got knowledge of the proposition from Europe before it had been even whispered here. On the arrival of our messenger, Dr. Bullus, who reported the declaration of the emperor, “that he would have no neutrals,” the embargo was hastily adopted. The representatives of a great commercial nation, afforded the astonishing example of the sacrifice of a whole people to the caprice of an European tyrant! The patience of that people was beyond all example, and can only be accounted for by the astonishing influence which France has acquired over a certain portion of them. The dangers to which our commerce was exposed, were the pretexts for that measure. And yet every man of sense knew that at that very moment our vessels could have been insured to Great-Britain for five per centum, and to India and back for eleven. In short, insurance was at *peace premiums*!!

But even our patience at last had its bounds; and after eighteen months proof of our disposition to aid France, government was compelled to yield up the *emperor's favourite* measure, though to appease his rage a non-intercourse with Britain was substituted. Tyrants, accustomed to obedience, are not so easily appeased. The emperor's rage broke out in every species of insult and contumely, as well as injury.