

not only in what related to the Mississippi, but by the most flagrant and destructive spoliation of our commerce on every part of the ocean where Spanish armed vessels met the American flag. These spoiliations were of immense magnitude, and demanded the most serious notice of our government. They had been followed by an indignity and direct infraction of our treaty relative to the Mississippi, which bore an aspect not to be dissembled or mistaken.

To the free navigation of that river we had an undoubted right from nature and from the position of our western country. This right and the right of deposit in the island of New Orleans had been solemnly acknowledged and fixed by treaty in 1795. That treaty had been in actual operation and execution for many years. And now, without pretence of abuse or violation on our part, the officers of the Spanish government deny the right, refuse the place of deposit, and add the most offensive of all insults by forbidding us to land or touch their shores, and shutting us out as a common nuisance.

By whom have these outrages been offered? By those who have constantly acknowledged our right, but now tell us they are no longer owners of the country!!!—They have given it away! And because they have no longer a right themselves, therefore they turn us out who have an undoubted right.—They dispossess us of that in which they disclaim all right themselves.—Such an insult, such unprovoked malignity of conduct, no nation but this would affect to mistake; and yet we not only hesitate to take the course which interest and honour call us to pursue, but we bear it with patience, tameness, and apparent unconcern. Whom does this infraction of the Treaty and the national rights of this country most intimately affect? If the wound of national honour be

not sensibly felt by the whole nation, is there not a large portion of your citizens exposed to immediate ruin by a continuance of this state of things? The calamity lights upon all those who live upon the Western waters. More than half a million of your citizens are by this cut off from market. What would be the language—What would be the feelings of gentlemen in this house, were such an indignity offered on the Atlantic coast?—What would they say if the Chesapeake, the Delaware, or the bay of New-York were shut up, and all egress prohibited by a foreign power? And yet none of these waters embrace the interests of so many as the Mississippi. The numbers and property affected by shutting this river, are much greater than the blockade of any Atlantic river would extend to. Every part of the Union is equally entitled to protection, and no good reason could be offered why one part should be less attended to than another.

In the last year, goods to the value of more than two millions of dollars had been carried into the Western country. These goods were purchased on credit.—The consumption of that merchandize afforded a revenue to our Treasury of more than three hundred thousand dollars.—The sale of western public lands was calculated upon as producing half a million of dollars annually.—Large arrearages of internal taxes were due from that country.—The people had just emerged from an Indian war.—They had overcome the most frightful obstructions which had ever presented themselves in the settlement of a new country; and although yet in their infancy, we might promise ourselves an honourable and vigorous manhood, if they were protected as we had led them to expect. After a little while their strength and faculty of self-preservation would be complete; certain-