

MR. MADISON'S MESSAGE.

NO. I.

FOREIGN AND CIVIL WAR RESOLVED UPON !

BEFORE we can have the requisite time, and leisure to express, and display the profound and awful impressions, which have been made upon us by this unparalleled document—Before we shall be able to strip this message of that almost impenetrable cloud, with which the present Chief Magistrate knows how to envelope the most alarming designs, and projects—Before we display, that cold, relentless, inflexible, and audacious spirit, which seems to consider the sufferings and distresses of a whole people as mere political pastime—which regards the loss of armies, and the destruction of thousands of our fellow men as trifling incidents in the game, which it has pleased certain sportsmen to play, I think it may be well to give to the publick in a concise form, more intelligible than the message was designed to be, the leading principles, positions, and opinions, which it has pleased Mr. Madison to advance.

I am well aware, that many good, well meaning men in reading this message will be carried away at first with the amicable, generous and noble professions of its author—It is precisely the art of appearing to be what one is not—of assuming virtues and principles which are foreign to our character—of hiding and sedulously and artfully concealing our designs, which constitutes that dangerous talent that has rendered so many men the scourges of the country in which they were born—It is only by stripping them of this disguise, by comparing carefully their conduct with their professions, that we can ascertain the real merit or demerit of men—we mean to attempt this difficult task, though conscious of our want of many of the qualifications necessary to its full and able execution.

The first and most important idea which the Message presents, and which runs through, and forms a distinguishing feature in it, is that the WAR, however disastrous—however burdensome, however fruitless, however hopeless and desperate, is to be not only persevered in, but more expensively, and more ferociously carried on.

Every paragraph is so expressed—every thought is so modelled—every fact is so coloured, presented or moulded, as to bring the mind to the necessity of waging this unnecessary and ruinous war, for aught we see, ad infinitum.

No art which could have a tendency to inflame the passions—No motive, which could excite the pride, the cupidity or the vengeance of men has been overlooked or left unurgd.