

was not sent out with a *non-importation* or a *non-intercourse* act in his hand ; which the president well knew would have been understood and considered by Great Britain in the nature of a *threat*, or an attempt to *coerce* ; and would defeat the object of the mission. He was in *reality* sent with the olive branch on the principle of a *fair and honourable* negotiation.

In the mean time, knowing that a failure of the negotiation must result in war, or an abandonment of our rights, every preparation to meet the event, which it was in the power of the country to make, was made. Laws were passed for fortifying our ports and harbors ; to provide a navy ; to erect arsenals and provide magazines ; for raising artillerists and engineers ; for directing a detachment from the militia ; to prohibit the exportation of arms and ammunition, and to encourage the importation of the same ; to build or purchase vessels to be armed and equipped as gallies or otherwise ; and for making further and more effectual provision for the protection of the frontiers of the United States. These several acts were passed in the short space of about ten weeks ; and not only found their way into the statute book, but were promptly carried into execution : and being laws of a mere municipal nature, providing for our internal security and defence, they gave no umbrage to Great Britain. Yet they spoke a language she well understood. What was the consequence ? Great Britain admitted our claim, revoked her orders, and made satisfaction for the injury ; and a treaty was concluded, under which our citizens have received millions of dollars for the losses they sustained by the capture and condemnation of their vessels ; and since it went into operation, as the gentleman from Virginia candidly admits, the United States have enjoyed unexampled prosperity.

France, still at war with England, had expected that the differences between England and the United States, would involve the two countries in war. Dissatisfied, therefore, with the treaty, France manifested an unfriendly disposition towards our government. In 1797, the spoliations committed under the outrageous decrees of France, were such as could no longer be tolerated consistently with our national honour and interest : and the French government had moreover refused to receive our minister.

It was once more fortunate for the nation, that our then chief magistrate, and the councils of our country, were still under the influence and guidance of the *spirit* and *policy* of '76. Envoys extraordinary were sent to remonstrate against the injuries we were suffering, and to demand satisfaction : not accompanied by *non-importation* laws, or any other acts or resolutions which could wound the pride of that nation : at the same time congress provided means of defence ; so that the nation might be prepared to avenge its wrongs, and vindicate its honor, in case of refusal, on the part of France, to do us justice. Laws were passed, prohibiting the exportation of arms and ammunition, and for encouraging the importation there-