

PREFACE.

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CHAPTER I.

*Causes of the war with England—Orders in
Council—Impressment—Indian Hostilities.*

THE United States assumed a rank among the
nations of the world, in one of the most stormy
periods of its history. All Europe was convul-
sed with the effects of the French revolution.
The mighty warrior which it called into political
life, seemed to move as the genius of the tempest.
One of his ruling maxims was never to tolerate a
neutral; all therefore within the reach of his arm
were either allies, vassals, or foes. England,
whose erronous policy had in the first instance
given rise to this energy, chose to adopt the
same maxim. She moreover appealed to the
world as the defender of the liberties and rights
of nations, and plainly denounced as traitors,
those who declined a participation in her quar-
rels.

Fortunately for this country, the waves of the
Atlantic rolled between it and the fury of the
European belligerents. However desirous they