

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 convulsed 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 erroncous 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 quarrels.

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