

from the War Department, that even the arms to which we are entitled by law, have been sent to prosecute a war of foreign conquest against our unoffending neighbors ; the dictates of self preservation demand that we should adopt measures for our own protection. And although a system of direct and internal taxation has been recommended by the President of the United States, which will add enormous burthens upon our Constituents, yet we confidently hope that the patriotism of our citizens will still be able to furnish some means of defence for our native State, should the General Government still continue to withhold that protection, which is guaranteed by the Constitution. It is, in these circumstances, a great consolation, that our brave and disciplined Militia, by your provident care have been reserved at home to repel invasion, instead of being sent on expeditions worse than fruitless, in which we might have been compelled to mourn over their defeats, when conscience would have forbidden us to rejoice in their success.

The right and duty of a free enquiry into "*the grounds and origin*" of the present war will never be relinquished by our constituents, without a struggle. The doctrine that silent acquiescence in ruinous measures, must be enforced, because they are stamped with the forms of the constitution, is not adapted to their character or comprehension. They imbibed different theories, in those times, when their petitions and remonstrances were despised and rejected by a British Parliament, deaf to their complaints and alien to their feelings. Such a doctrine is an incentive to tyranny, to stifle opposition, by doing its work with despatch.

Your Excellency's illustration of the causes of the unjust war in which we are engaged, is so lucid and satisfactory, and your view of the controversy respecting the British Orders in Council and their claims to

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