

though we might have wished, for the good of humanity, to see them defeated, yet a due regard to our own interests, and even to those of the civilized world, would have forbidden us to join in the attempt: For although we should certainly be exposed to temporary evils by the preponderance of her power, yet our strength increases with a rapidity, which must place us, in a very short time, beyond the reach of danger or dread; and may also enable us to preserve the liberties of mankind, by forming a counterpoise and a check to the ambition of France, after they shall be lost in Europe. This strength would be greatly diminished, and its increase long retarded by a premature exertion. To remain in peace, therefore, amidst the present conflict of empires, was a duty to ourselves, to posterity, and to the human race.

This wise policy, the result of deep foresight, and of an enlightened regard to the interests of this country and of humanity, was early adopted by our government. But France did not thus judge, nor so determine. She early saw in this country a powerful instrument for promoting her ambition, and she early formed a resolution to use it. Hence her efforts to gain the controul of our affairs: Hence her unceasing endeavours to excite jealousies against the government, and divisions among the people, to blow up our animosities against England, and foment our ancient discontents. Hence those unfounded pretensions which we saw her first minister set up; pretensions which, if admitted, must have placed the affairs of this country entirely under his controul. Hence did we see him, when the government refused to yield to these pretensions, treating it with insult and outrage, and threatening to appeal from its decisions to the people. We saw him arm and commission privateers in our ports, against the express orders of our government, and send them to sea in contempt of its authority. We saw him attempt to levy an army in our country, for the purpose of invading nations with whom we were in peace. We saw him make a formal complaint against the President for refusing to convene Congress at his instance.

All this he did in the avowed pursuit of the object of