

In many instances disgraced and dishonoured this party, who have frequently proved themselves, to use a very trite but very expressive proverb, penny wise—pound foolish. When we analyze the boasted spirit of economy to which the opposition to a navy may be in part ascribed, we shall find it arises from two sources; the one, from men of narrow minds carrying into public, the huckstering habits of private life. The other, a base spirit of courting popularity by husbanding the public money, even on occasions when liberality is true economy, which is as frequently the case in public affairs as in private life. Both motives are equally contemptible; but the latter is the more pernicious, and produces the most ruinous consequences. It starves and smothers public undertakings, and public spirit, and often defrauds illustrious men of their due rewards. To this vile spirit we must ascribe the never-enough-to-be-despised debate, whether Eaton, the glorious and immortal hero of Derne,\* should have a sword or a medal! a debate which brought down on the congress in which it took place the contempt of every magnanimous and liberal man in the nation; a debate which would have disgraced the common council of the most petty borough in the union. To this spirit it will be due that votes of thanks, and swords, and urns, and other cheap modes of displaying our gratitude, will probably quiet our minds, and deceive us into the opinion, that we have paid the boundless debt due to the Perries, the Macdo-

\* Perhaps I may be wrong in my estimation of this exploit. But I cannot help regarding it as one of the most illustrious events in American military affairs by land—when all the circumstances of the case are taken into view. I never reflect without amazement and admiration on the heroism of the gallant band, who under this intrepid chief pierced through the desert, and shook a powerful usurper's throne to the centre. I have always deplored the inauspicious interference that dashed the glorious prize to the earth just as Eaton had stretched out his hand, and was ready to seize it without the smallest danger of an unfavorable result. The state of Massachusetts acquired great honor by its liberality to the warrior of Derne, on whom it bestowed a valuable tract of land as a mark of its esteem and admiration.