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AN EXPOSITION
OF
THE CAUSES AND CHARACTER
OF
THE WAR.

WHATEVER may be the termination of the negotiations at Ghent, the despatches of the American commissioners, which have been communicated by the president of the United States, to the congress, during the present session, will distinctly unfold, to the attentive and impartial of all nations, the objects and dispositions of the parties to the present war.

The United States, relieved by the general pacification of the treaty of Paris, from the danger of actual sufferance, under the evils which had compelled them to resort to arms, have avowed their readiness to resume the relations of peace and amity with Great Britain, upon the simple and single condition, of preserving their territory and their sovereignty, entire and unimpaired. Their desire of peace, indeed, "upon terms of reciprocity, consistent with the rights of both parties, as sovereign and independent nations," has not, at any time, been influenced by the provocations of an unprecedented course of hostilities; by the incitements of a successful campaign; or by the agitations which have seemed again to threaten the tranquillity of Europe.

But the British government, after inviting "a discussion with the government of America, for the conciliatory adjustment of the differences subsisting between the two states, with an earnest desire, on their part (as it was alleged) to bring them to a favorable issue, upon principles of a perfect reciprocity, not inconsistent with the established maxims of public law, and with the maritime rights of the British empire;" and after "expressly disclaiming any intention to acquire an increase of territory," has peremptorily demanded, as the price of

¹ See Mr. Monroe's letter to Lord Castlereagh, dated January, 1814.

² See Lord Castlereagh's letter to Mr. Monroe, dated the 4th of November, 1813.

³ See the American despatch, dated the 12th of August, 1814.