



A D D R E S S .

TO RICHARD E. LEE, Esq. Mayor of the borough of Norfolk, *Virginia*, and all other the Citizens of the United States of America, who are influenced by the genuine principles of Anno 1775 & '76,—and more particularly the citizens of *Norfolk, Portsmouth*, and its vicinity, who assembled in June, 1807, in order to take efficient measures of defence at this all important crisis.

Respected Friends & Fellow-Citizens :—

A superficial genius, it appears to me must readily allow, that it is so ordered in Providence, that we live in a day, pregnant with the most interesting events; and that it will finally terminate in favour of the great family of mankind, there has not been a shadow of a doubt in my mind for many years past. It is a well known maxim with the great bulk of the enlightened,—remove the cause, and the effect of course ceases.

The late outrageous attack of the British ship of war, the *Leopard*, on the United States ship of war, the *Chesapeake*, in which the dignity and sovereignty of the United States received for the moment a wound—in my humble apprehension, compleatly fulfills the prediction of *MERLIN*, a celebrated ancient Briton, who lived in the fifth century. After being in the full belief that every sentiment would in due time be fulfilled, in order to get the opinions of my then fellow-citizens, I got it inserted in the *Oracle of the Day*, edited by Mr. Charles Peirce, Anno 1796,—Mr. Peirce, at the moment, seems to have been influenced by the purest of motives, in order to diffuse light; and of course the types then under his immediate direction, answered the purposes of Omnipotence in permitting their invention;—I heard of its being copied into some of the Southern papers, but no notice taken thereof that ever came to my knowledge. Soon after the elevation
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