

What could we now do? The first and simplest idea which suggested itself, was to stay at home, where we could be more safe than in stirring abroad exposed to be assailed by a tyger or lion watching for his prey. An embargo was laid: but the experiment of some months, proved that from the great extent of our sea coasts, and the small extent of our patriotism, it could not be enforced. It was therefore taken off, and in place of it a law was passed forbidding all intercourse with France and England. By this means we were still enabled to carry on some trade with Spain, the West Indies, and the nations round the Baltic. But we were not long in discovering, that an escape from war was inevitable. Our national character had sunk abroad, and appeared to be sinking at home; and what man or society of men ever prospered, with infamy attached to their reputations? The American was ashamed to own his country while abroad. Throughout the whole nation, the opinion was fast gaining ground that we must have war. But against which of the belligerents should it be waged? This was the question. We had abundant cause for complaint against both. The vast fleet of England would drive our little navy from the