

shall snatch the reins of our government from the hands in which we have placed them? whether, in fine, they will give their confidence to men of their own choice, having the same interests with themselves, or to strangers and foreigners, charged with the interests of another country, and always seeking to promote them at our expence? Can the decision be difficult?

And what are these pretensions, which France enforces by the plunder of our merchants, and the imprisonment of our citizens? What are those injuries which she avenges by insulting our government and our country, and whereof, with a more

July, 24, 1794: Debret's State Papers; vol. 2, p. 347—In a controversy between them, the Genoese Secretary relied on the law of nations: M. Tilly replied, "that he did not acknowledge as public rights, (*Droits publics* which ought to have been translated *public laws*) papers drawn up under the authority of kings." It was to ascertain and establish the true public law, he said, that the French had taken up arms, "until this work of theirs, he adds, shall be completed, their ministers resident in foreign states, are bound provisionally to make the French name respected, by conducting themselves conformably to reason and justice, which are the only basis of true public rights:" of this *reason and justice* the French themselves were to be the judges, and under this pretence, they were to controul and set aside the established law of nations.

This was pretty much of a piece with the declaration of Mr. Genet, who thanked God that he had long since forgotten, what was contained in the *worm eaten volumes of Vattel, Grotius, and Puffendorf.*