

to pieces.—Piedmont? Gone.—Switzerland? In fetters. And yet, under all these circumstances, we pause and hesitate respecting our rule of action. The French revolution, Mr. Windham said, is a devouring pestilence, which the more it has destroyed, the more it is capable of destroying. It was said, the aggrandisement was not to be dreaded, as she had manifested no hostile intentions: he was warranted, on the contrary, in saying, from the information of intelligent men, who had visited France since the peace; that the mind of that country was hostile to us; that they disregarded, comparatively, the territorial acquisitions, and their sole vengeance was directed against England, which they regarded as the cause and source of all their sufferings. They were in consequence aiming a mortal blow at our commerce, which they properly regarded as the foundation of our credit and capital. They had within the last twelve months, launched no less than thirteen ships of war, of which seven are of the line. They had imported in that time, and in British and American ships, 10,000 tons of hemp from the Baltic, which was equal to one year's consumption of the British navy in time of war. The expedition of St. Domingo, was the greatest that had ever been equipped in the same space of time. They appeared, in fact to enjoy full credit at the very time when we were jesting at their poverty. There was nothing in the conduct of France which did not favor of enmity, and yet those who warned this country, of her design, were treated as firebrands, and disturbers of the peace of the great Western nation. He trusted that ministers would not part with any thing which was agreed to be surrendered but which, through accident or precaution, remained in their hands. If these were given up, in all probability they would be so many

instruments, immediately employed against us. If we began to act, we might hope to see the Continental Powers arise in our favor. A war was in fact, the only chance for our safety. If we surrendered that which we have now in our power, our safety was gone, and our destruction was inevitable.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, he was not ignorant, more than other men, of the aggrandizements of France, nor of its increasing power; but it must be something more than the argument which he heard this night that should induce him to think that war now would tend to reduce them.—War was a certain evil; Peace was a certain good; and it behoved us to take our chance for its continuance (*a cry of Fear! hear!*) Gentlemen had dwelt much upon the reduced state of our military and naval strength; but he desired the house to look to the state of the peace establishment in 1784, just after the American war. There they would find that the extent of the present establishment far exceeded it. At present there was no reduction of the regular infantry, as was usual, after a definitive treaty, save that diminution of the militia which the existing laws required. In the cavalry some reduction certainly had taken place. In 1786, just after all our differences were adjusted with Europe and America, our navy consisted of 116 ships of war, now it consists of 207. At the breaking out of this last war, the peace establishment consisted of 15,000 men, but now it comprised 46,000; at that time we had but 23 sail of the line in commission, now we have 55. As to our finances, we find that the amount of British exports in 1801, was 29 millions, whereas in 1802, it would amount to 27,500,000/ and the revenue in one year has increased upwards of 4,400,000/. Of the float-