

and an honorable reparation was agreed to, we thought our resentment ought also to cease.

In these mistakes there can be no doubt that France has been greatly fortified by her emissaries in this country, and by some of our citizens both here and in Europe. They have confirmed her in the idea, to adopt the expression of General Pinkney, in his letter of December 20th, 1796, "that our government acts upon principles opposed to the sentiments of a large majority of our people; that we are a people divided by party, the mere creatures of foreign influence, and regardless of our national character, honor, and interest."

Believing, therefore, that the government, torn by party, is too feeble to resist her; that thwarted in its operations by the affections, the sentiments, and the wishes of the people, it will be unable to oppose any effectual exertions against her attacks; that a powerful party in the government, and a great majority of the people, will take part with her against the government itself, or at least will withhold from it all effectual support; that the people, wholly immersed in the pursuits of gain, have lost their martial spirit whereby they were distinguished in the late war, and will submit to any indignities or injuries, rather than risk their persons and wealth in a contest; she has come to a resolution to attack and pillage us, to mal-treat us in every manner, and to refuse all intercourse with us, in the firm persuasion that the government, however unwillingly, will be obliged to yield; and that we shall submit to her terms as the price of her forbearance.

These terms, in substance and necessary effect, are a rupture with Britain, and the exclusion of her commerce from our ports; and such a construction with the treaty of France as shall permit her to arm vessels, enlist crews, and sell prizes in our country, free from the interference of our courts of justice.

Should she even fail in this, still she has no doubt that we, from our desire of peace, will always be ready to make an accommodation, and to relinquish