

Lastly, have the United States of America resources for this attitude? Their resources have been, if possible, more underrated than their character. Their population now falls but little short of ten millions. With an inexhaustible territorial fund of wealth, without debts or taxation, with every abundance of munition and requisite for war, they have a greater strength in men with arms in their hands, than the Roman empire ever maintained at any one time, than the force with which Louis XIV. terrified all the powers of Europe combined, or with which the Duke of Marlborough and his auxiliaries drove Louis XIV. into the recesses of his palace. A militia of six hundred thousand men, undisciplined indeed, unofficered, and uninured to the tactics and hardships of a state of hostility, but hardy, athletic, adroit, and invincibly attached to their country and its liberties, are the raw materials at least for forming a formidable barrier to invasion. Much of the contumelious aggression the Americans have experienced from the European belligerents, is ascribable to their reliance on the defenceless and unprepared posture of this country.* But a free and martial people, accustomed

* The American navy is at once the glory and the shame of the American nation: the nursery of its martial genius, the chancery of its fame, the vestal guard of that spark, which however it may fade or darkle, can never expire without carrying with it all that ennobles, embodies and preserves a people. Among so small a number of individuals as compose the officers of this little navy, never did nor does there exist a more glorious spirit of chivalric valour and enterprise, superior nautical skill, and proficiency, discipline, subordination and concert in time of service, more gentleman-like deport-