

Deeply impressed with the justness of these sentiments, and indulging a faint hope that I may find "fit audience, though few," I propose to examine the present popular grounds of complaint against Great Britain. These I shall comprise under the following heads :—

1. The impressment of our seamen.
2. The orders in council.

These embrace the principal topics of complaint which are now urged by the administration, and seem to limit the angry declamations of its supporters. For since France has settled the question of the colonial trade, it is no longer claimed as a right ; since the traffic in imperial licences is publicly driven in our great cities, little is heard of the late British transit duty ; and since the brilliant achievement of the frigate President, the affair of the Chesapeake has ceased to interest the public feeling.

It is often repeated, that the impressment of our seamen is justifiable cause of war. It is a theme full of irritation, and leading to every kind of misrepresentation. The passions of men are so easily excited on this subject, that there is little chance for candour or argument to gain a hearing. Indeed there is little ground for reasoning on either side, for the question of right is unusually clear of doubt. The difficulties are of a practical, rather than of an abstract sort, arising partly from intrinsic, and partly from artificial causes. Mutual good temper, liberal and enlightened views only are necessary to dry up this ever-flowing fountain of bitter waters.

In all treaties between nations, as there are conflicting rights and interests, there must necessarily be mutual concessions. A preponderance of advantage must