

maritime war began, such an enquiry is most properly inscribed to a body of traders, who are so nearly concerned in it's success, and who have so considerable a share as well in our foreign as domestic commerce. You are likewise very capable to pronounce on the real merit of my undertaking; for many among you are men of a liberal education; of large and extensive views; who have studied and who understand the political system, not of this island only, but of Europe in general. Add to these things, that your residence in this great centre of business, your near and frequent opportunities of approaching those persons, who administer the public, give you a distinguished rank of consideration among your fellow-subjects. So that an appeal to you is, in effect, an appeal to the whole nation: and, as such, gentlemen, this is intended.

It is acknowledged, on all hands, that the present situation of our affairs is a very critical one. No man therefore, can be an indifferent spectator of it, who is not, at the same time, insensible to his most important interests, to the present age, and to posterity. We are all embarked in one
political