

free, but also the concentrating them at one point, and placing them in one hand; schemes obviously, ruinous to the fates of a free republic, as they comprehend the means, by which such have ever, heretofore, been destroyed;—when, I say, such schemes shall be abandoned, and the wishes of the cabinet limited to mere defence, and frontier and maritime protection, there will be no need of calls to union. For such objects there is not, there cannot be, but one heart and soul in this people.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that while I utter these things, a thousand tongues, and a thousand pens, are preparing, without doors, to overwhelm me, if possible, by their pestiferous gall. Already, I hear, in the air, the sound of—"traitor"—"*British agent*"—"British gold,"—and all those charges of vulgar calumny, by which the imaginations of the mass of men, are affected; and by which they are prevented, from listening to what is true, and receiving what is reasonable.

Mr. Speaker, it well becomes any man, standing in the presence of such a nation as this, to speak of himself seldom; and such a man as I am, it becomes to speak of himself, not at all; except, indeed, when the relations, in which he stands to his country, are little known, and when the assertion of those relations, has some connexion, and may have some influence, on interests, which it is peculiarly incumbent upon him to support.

Under this sanction, I say,—it is not for a man, whose ancestors have been planted, in this country, now, for almost two centuries; it is not for a man, who has a family, and friends, and character, and children, and a deep stake in the soil; it is not for a man, who is self-conscious of being rooted in that soil, as deeply, and as exclusively, as the oak, which shoots among its rocks; it is not for such a man to hesitate, or swerve a hair's breadth from his country's purpose, and true interests, because of the yelpings, the howlings, and snarlings of that hungry pack, which, corrupt men, keep, directly, or indirectly, in pay, with the view of hunting down every man, who dare develop their purposes; a pack, composed, it is true, of some native curs, but for the most part, of hounds and spaniels, of very recent importation, whose backs are seared by the lash; and whose necks are sore, with the collars, of their former masters. In fulfilling his duty, the lover of his country, must often be obliged to breast the shock of calumny. If called to that service, he will meet the exigency, with the same firmness, as, should another occasion call, he would breast the shock of battle. No, sir, I am not to be deterred by such apprehensions. May heaven so deal with me, and mine, as I am true, or faithless, to the best interests of this people! May it deal with me, according to its just judgments, when I fail to bring men and measures, to the bar of public opinion; and to expose, projects and systems of policy, which I realize to be ruinous to the peace, prosperity, and liberties of my country!