

We predicted this change, as did many others, six months ago, in the pamphlet, entitled "Madison's War." We advised the people to despise the anti-republican, despotick opinion, that the citizens have no right to discuss the merits of a war, after it is declared. We recommended a constitutional resistance, a resistance at the polls. The people have done so; and what is the glorious and unexampled result?

Never since the Declaration of Independence, has such an union been witnessed. In the lower house of congress, *which alone* could have been effected in so short a time by popular elections, we shall probably have a peace majority.

The present prospect is, that not one member of congress, from Maine to Delaware, will be in favour of the war.

In Massachusetts, at no period of its history, has it ever enjoyed so united a delegation. Its voice will now have, as it ought to, its due weight. Let us examine this respectable power, which has risen up as it were by magick, or by the finger of Heaven, against a daring and headstrong administration.

These northern and middle states, who are now united in opinion, possess 3,000,000 of inhabitants, considerably more than did the whole United States at the time of the Declaration of Independence. They are a body of freemen, distinguished for their industry and virtue. They are the owners of nearly two third parts of all the tonnage of the United States, and furnishes, probably three fourths of all the *native seamen*. They are totally opposed to a war for the privilege of protecting *British seamen* against their own sovereign. They know, from their own experience, that this subject of impressment is a mere instrument, wielded by men who are utterly indifferent about the sufferings of the sailors or the merchants.

The display of the true principles, upon which this subject ought to be considered, is the main object of the following essays.

We are aware that the friends of administration, (and some few who ought to know better the rights and duties of a citizen) with uncommon pretensions to patriotism, have bridled themselves in with a haughty and censorious air, when they have read these essays, and have thought to condemn them, and to render the author odious, by representing him as supporting the claims of Great Britain, and as abandoning the rights of America.

It is a vulgar clamour, which the author heeds not, he has no popularity to seek, and he fears not for the reputation of his integrity, with the wise and good; but as such a clamour may lead feeble minds to read with distrust, and to weigh with uneven scales, it may not be amiss to say a word or two upon this subject.

Is morality, when applied to questions between nations, of a different character, and founded on different principles from what it is, when applied to individuals?

Is man an infallible being? or, if he errs, is he never to turn from the error of his way? is he never to examine the rectitude of his own principles? or, if convinced of his error, is he never to confess it, and alter his conduct; but must his pride prompt