

had happened, and the facts stated, were not such as might have been foreseen or prevented. The House had now been given to understand, that the vessels were seized without any preliminary notice; had such notice however been given, it would have made no difference in his vote on that day, convinced as he was, that there could not be a single man in that House, or in the country, but must see the necessity for a vigorous armament. This country certainly could have had no reason to have expected an act of hostility from any quarter, a few days back, when from every appearance, we were led to look for a long and uninterrupted peace; that prospect, at least for the present, was gone; and in its stead there was much matter of serious concern; for however favourable a war at its commencement might appear, it was impossible to foretell its ultimate consequences. He had not, in the whole course of his life, been used to speak with despondency of the resources of the country, but he did not think it fair, in a matter of great serious concern, to pass it over and take no notice of it, at a moment when the occasion seemed necessarily to require that it should be mentioned. It was now scarcely a fortnight since the Minister of this country pointed out to the House the the prosperity and flourishing state of the finances, and in no part of his speech did he seem more confident, than in the assurances he gave the House of the prospect of the continuance of peace. On first hearing the message, it struck him as an instance of the uncertainty of human wisdom, and the mutability of human affairs, when he observed a gentleman at the head of the Admini-