

Should any ask, what are the sacrifices we must incur by a war, and what are our means of becoming formidable to France? I would answer that, as to sacrifices, the greatest we can make is that of our rights and independence; that war is an evil always to be avoided, but infinitely less than national degradation, and submission to the will of a foreign power; that every possible loss of property and lives may be repaired by time and industry, if we preserve our honor and our government; but that these, once lost, can never be restored; in fine, that a nation which weighs its purse against its rights, never fails in the end to lose both one and the other.

To shew that we submit to injuries, for fear of loss, amounts to bribing foreign nations with our own money to insult and attack us.

I would answer that we magnanimously resolved to resist the power of Britain more than twenty years ago, when our resources were infinitely less than at present, and our situation for employing them far more disadvantageous; and that this resolution created the means of resistance. I would answer that, we possess a population probably little short of six millions; a country abounding with every thing necessary for the subsistence and arming of troops; more ships and sailors than any nation on earth except England; an extensive revenue, not felt by the people, and capable of very