

from its own.—Every inch of land that was cultivated on the banks of the Mississippi, or in the wilds of Siberia, gave a new impulse to our prosperity, because it presented new sources of wealth, new abilities for consumption, new demands for objects of enjoyment, that is for that luxury against which civil declaimers have inveighed so much, and which, notwithstanding their clamorous lamentations has only kept pace with the improvement of the human species and is the measure of their progress in knowledge and in happiness.

Our national interest, therefore, in the affairs of the Continent, embraces these two points, to prevent the dangerous aggrandizement of any power, and to promote the general tranquillity of Europe. It must, therefore, be highly advantageous for this country to promote a bold examination of the conduct of Foreign Powers, and to excite a jealousy of their ambitious projects. The effect of this vigilant jealousy, and manly spirit of inquiry, is to animate and prepare the minds of men to resist an attack which they know is meditated against them. As was said by a great man of antiquity (Cicero) concerning himself, that no person was an enemy to the Republic, without at the same time being an enemy to him, so no state nor sovereign can be the general enemy of Europe, without being in a particular manner the enemy of England. The history of past times affords so clear an illustration of this truth, that whenever we find the ambitious and the unjust conspiring to disturb the repose and to attack the rights of their neighbours, they are compelled to announce their intention by manifesting their hatred to a country whose interest is the conservation and protection of all. This brave and generous nation, therefore, has ever been the first mark

against which the attacks of the ambitious have been directed. We have been stationed in the front of the battle. Thus our ancestors always encouraged instead of repressing, that spirit of proud indignation against injustice, that sense of wrong which, when Europe was menaced, was likely to supply the only resources by which danger could be repelled. Our ancestors, though they never felt, they inspired fear; but disdaining the selfishness of looking only to their local and immediate interests, superior to the pusillanimous sentiment of crouching to the ambitious or trembling at the frowns of powerful neighbours, they shewed a perspective fear, that wise discernment of danger which is not the parent of cowardice, but which leads to precaution. Our ancestors knew well that if danger was abroad it was only to be repelled or prevented by energy at home. They knew that no great enterprises, no national efforts, can succeed, unless seconded by a hearty zeal on the part of the people at large. Therefore they wished to see the country prepared for any extremity by putting on the armour of power and indignation against those who were to become their enemies. I need not tell you, Gentlemen of the Jury, that without public spirit fleets and armies are nothing. Public spirit is a thing very distant from courage, and without it courage is useless. No nation ever perished for want of personal courage; but many have perished for want of public spirit; that spirit which unites all private personal courage; gives it a livelier sense and a common direction. In this country varied as it is in every scale, of rank, of mind, of information and character, public spirit depends in a great measure on the energies of the popular parts of the nation. It depends on that manly pride, that that sense of dignity which even the