

man. But the doctrine of the Government paper goes farther, you can not only not discuss the question of right, but you must be silent as to the resources or ability of the nation to gain the object of the war. The opinion of the Executive is conclusive on this point also. The National Intelligencer tells the people of the United States, that Great Britain has done an *unprovoked* act, which justifies a declaration of war on our part;—this point, it says, it is *treason* in any body to disprove.—It adds, that this war would be expedient, because “we can bring Great Britain to our feet. We can ruin her manufacturers; we can starve her colonies; we can take Canada and Nova-Scotia: while the injury will be trifling to ourselves, as we can supply ourselves as plentifully with foreign goods by *prizes* we shall take, as we are *now* supplied by commerce; and our produce will meet as ready a sale in war as in peace.”

But any attempt to disprove these propositions, especially if made with *truth* and ability, it declares to be the high offence of *treason*, inasmuch as it tends to prove the opinions of *great men* erroneous, and to discourage the people from undertaking a war, which those great men have resolved to wage.

Braving all the dangers to which those writers are exposed, who venture to give light to the people, on this most interesting subject, and despising the threats of prosecution for *treason*, I shall attempt to develop the principles, to trace the history, and to expose the facts in relation to our alledged cause of complaint against England;—to examine our *own* conduct, and the allegation so often made, that the attack on our National flag, was wholly without provocation; and lastly, to consider the expediency of war, in which will be involved, its objects—the prospect of success or defeat; our resources, and means of annoyance of our proposed enemy; and the power, situation, and interests of the nation with whom we are about to contend; and I shall conclude with considering the effects of such a war, whether it prove successful or disgraceful upon our general politicks, interior and exterior, and upon those *great* and *permanent* interests, which ought never to be overlooked when we are weighing minor questions, or debating upon injuries and incidents which do not affect, or compromise our welfare or existence.

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