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Accompanying the Message of the President of the United States, to the two Houses of Congress, at the opening of the first session of the tenth Congress.

No. I.

Note communicated by Lord Howick to Mr. Munroe, dated January 10th, 1807.

The undersigned, his majesty's principal secretary of state for foreign affairs, has received his majesty's commands to acquaint Mr. Monroe, that the French government having issued certain orders, which, in violation of the usages of war, purport to prohibit the commerce of all neutral nations with his majesty's dominions, and also to prevent such nations from trading with any other country in any articles, the growth, produce, or manufacture of his majesty's dominions. And the said government having also taken upon itself to declare his majesty's dominions to be in a state of blockade, at a time when the fleets of France and her allies are themselves confined within their own ports, by the superior valour and discipline of the British navy.

Such attempts on the part of the enemy, giving to his majesty an unquestionable right of retaliation, and warranting his majesty in enforcing the same prohibition of all commerce with France, which that power vainly hopes to effect against the commerce of his majesty's subjects, a prohibition which the superiority of his majesty's naval forces might enable him to support, by actually investing the ports and coasts of the enemy with numerous squadrons and cruisers, so as to make the entrance or approach thereto manifestly dangerous.

His majesty, though unwilling to follow the example of his enemies, by proceeding to an extremity so distressing to all nations not engaged in the war, and carrying on their accustomed trade; yet feels himself bound by a due regard to the just defence of the rights and interest of his people, not to suffer such measures to be taken by the enemy, without taking some steps