

cabinet, in relation to those provinces, and with the avowed intent of making their subjugation the means of peace, through the fear to be inspired into Great Britain, is as offensive to the pride of that nation, as can well be imagined; and is, in my apprehension, as sure a guarantee of continued war, as could be given. On these grounds, my mind cannot force itself to any other conclusion than this, that the avowed object of this bill is the true one; that the Canadas are to be invaded the next season; that the war is to be protracted; and that this is the real policy of the American cabinet.

I will now reply to those invitations to "union," which have been so obtrusively urged upon us. If by this call to union is meant, an union, in a project for the invasion of Canada, or for the invasion of East Florida, or for the conquest of any foreign country whatever, either as a means of carrying on this war, or for any other purpose, I answer distinctly;—I will unite with no man, nor any body of men, for any such purposes. I think such projects criminal, in the highest degree, and ruinous to the prosperity of these states. But, if by this invitation is meant union, in preparation for defence, strictly so called; union, in fortifying our sea board; union, in putting our cities into a state of safety; union, in raising such a military force as shall be sufficient, with the local militia, in the hands, of the constitutional leaders, the executives of the states, to give a rational degree of security, against any invasion, sufficient to defend our frontiers, sufficient to awe into silence the Indian tribes, within our territories; union, in creating such a maritime force, as shall command the seas, on the American coasts, and keep open the intercourse, at least between the states;—if this is meant, I have no hesitation; union, on such principles, you shall have from me, cordially, and faithfully.—And this, too, sir, without any reference to the state of my opinion, in relation to the justice, or the necessity of this war. Because, I well understand, such to be the condition of man, in a social compact, that he must partake of the fate of the society, to which he belongs, and must submit to the privations and sacrifices, its defence requires, notwithstanding these may be the result of the vices, or crimes, of its immediate rulers. But there is a great difference between supporting such rulers in plans of necessary self-defence, on which the safety of our altars and fire-sides essentially depends, and supporting them in projects of foreign invasion, and encouraging them in schemes of conquest and ambition, which are not only unjust in themselves, but dreadful in their consequences; inasmuch as, let the particular project result as it may, the general effect must be, according to human view, destructive to our own domestic liberties and constitution. I speak as an individual. Sir, for my single self, did I support such projects, as are avowed to be the objects of this bill, I should deem myself a traitor to my country. Were I even to aid them, by loan, or in any other way, I should consider myself a partaker in the guilt of the purpose. But, when these projects of invasion shall be abandoned; when men yield up schemes, which, not only openly contemplate the raising of a great military