

It would, Sir, be some consolation, amidst the sufferings which this miserable system has caused, if in looking abroad, we could discover that the nations who have injured and offended us felt its oppression only equally with ourselves. But when we find that we have been scourging ourselves for their benefit and amusement, when they can tell us with indifference and contempt, that they feel for us, but that we must correct our own folly; instead of meeting with the poor comfort which we expected, we are overwhelmed with accumulated mortification.

Was this a measure against France? No—the emperor commends the magnanimous sacrifice which you have made of your commerce, rather than submit to British tyranny on the ocean.

His imperial majesty never approves what he does not like—and he never likes what does not comport with his own designs.

I consider it as admitted that the embargo was intended to coerce England; and the gentleman from Virginia now contends that if it had been strictly executed it would have had that effect. Nothing has happened that common foresight might not have foreseen. The gentleman has read to you, extracts from an English pamphlet, published before the embargo was laid, which predicts the very evasions of the law, the discontents it would produce, and the opposition it would meet with, which we have all had the melancholy opportunity of witnessing. I know the pamphlet was referred to for another purpose—to shew that British gold or influence had corrupted or seduced the Vermontese before the embargo was imposed. The gentleman may believe the fact to be so if he pleases; but I say, Sir, that your government here, with all its means of information, ought to have known as much about the condition of Vermont as a pamphletteer on the other side of the Atlantic.

It seems now to be admitted, and the fact is too evident to be denied, that the embargo has failed in its coercive effect upon Britain. The want of bread, cotton, or lumber, has neither starved her subjects, nor excited them to insurrection. Some gentlemen have had shrewdness enough to discover an effect in an English price current, which might to be sure, have been owing to the embargo, or might have been produced by the operation on the market of *some private speculations*. But it has enriched Canada, and has taught the islands their policy and ability to live without us.

Would to God, Mr. President, that the embargo had done as little evil to ourselves as it has done to foreign nations!

It is ourselves who are the victims of the miserable experiment. Your treasury will lose at least fifteen millions of dollars, and your country in addition not less than forty. This tax has not been so much felt, though it has not in truth been less paid, because the embargo has not taken the money out of our pockets, but only prevented it going into them. This measure has been not only ruinous to our interests, but it is hostile to the genius of our government. It calls for an increase of your regular army, and a vast augmentation of your military force. Ten thousand bayonets were not sufficient to enforce it, but fifty thousand volunteers (as I have seen by a bill on the table) were to be invited to assist in its execution.

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