

be scourged. When they understand this, I am fully persuaded that they will abandon their project. Our negotiation, I believe, will be successful; but the foundations of its success must be laid in the House of Representatives; and these foundations must be vigorous and effectual preparations for war. We must consider ourselves as in the presence of a bully, who can be prevented from striking us in no manner but by shewing him that we are able and resolved to return the blow.

Should I, however, mistake in all this, still the same system will be right. Should the views of France be different from what I have supposed; “should the plan of French aggrandizement,” to borrow the words of an eloquent speaker in the House of representatives, “require America to be driven into the war, war we shall have, in spite of all our peaceable endeavours to avert it; and, in that case, the sooner we set about serious preparations, the better we shall be able to repel and retort the attack.”

Thus, in either case, our course must be the same. Whether France intends to make war upon us, to bully us, or, under pretence of “just displeasure,” to continue her depredations on us for the purpose of injuring England, as long as we will submit to them, still our wisdom lies in speedy and effectual preparation.