

placed in my possession the following important speech*.

I perceived in it at once a most desirable substitute for those arguments which I was on the point of composing.—My object was not to fortify former positions of right, much less to enter at large into the new relations of the American controversy; but only to deprecate premature determination, and obtain time for further discussion.—What then could be more abundantly sufficient for my purpose than this speech of Mr. Randolph?

It cannot be supposed that his Majesty's minister can wish precipitately to relinquish our belligerent rights or pretensions at this most delicate crisis, unless from the fear that an immediate rupture with America must be the consequence of further delay; but surely no reflecting mind after attending to this speech, published, as well as spoken by an American political leader of the first eminence, can retain that idle apprehension.

The occasion of Mr. Randolph's argument, was a motion made by the most zealous of the French party, for a general non-importation bill; i.e. for the prohibition of importing any British manufactures, while the disputes between the two countries are unsettled; and the event of this motion was a decision in the negative, by a majority of 70 to 47—It appears therefore that Mr. Randolph's very powerful and eloquent arguments, were assented to by a large majority.

* I write on the 1st of May, and hope, before I sleep, to send this hasty composition to press.