

He would not long trespass on the attention of the house. In order to place before them in a clear and perspicuous manner his sentiments upon this most important subject, he had embodied them in a resolution, which members would have an opportunity of perusing, and weighing with due deliberation during the period of adjournment, and the truth of which they would thus have an opportunity of ascertaining. He could only say, that to the correctness of the facts which he should state, he could most fully pledge himself. He would then content himself with reading his resolution, and should reserve whatever else he might have to offer to the house till he heard whether any objection should be made—an event which he did not anticipate, as he saw not upon what ground objection could rise. The noble lord then read the following resolution.

“That the honor of his majesty’s crown, the glory and safety of the country, does in a great degree depend on the maintenance, especially in time of war, of an efficient naval establishment.

That during the late and present war with France, splendid victories have been gained by his majesty’s fleets and vessels of war, over a vast superiority in the number of guns and men, and in the weight of metal.

That these victories, gained under such circumstances, were obtained by the skill and intrepidity of the officers, and by the energy, zeal and valor of the crews.

That during the present war with the United States of America, his majesty’s naval service has, in several instances, experienced defeat, in a manner, and to a degree, unforeseen and unexpected by this house, by the admiralty, and by the country at large.

That the cause of these lamentable defeats is not any superiority possessed by the enemy, either in skill or valor, nor the well known difference in the weight of metal, which heretofore has been deemed unimportant; but arises chiefly from the decayed and heartless state of the crews of his majesty’s ships of war, compared with their former energy and zeal—and compared, on the other hand, with the freshness and vigor of the crews of the enemy.