

OBSERVATIONS, &c.

IT will be recollected, my fellow-citizens, that while I have claimed, as one of the representatives of the American people, the right of acting according to my own judgment, on all questions which concern their general interests, I have always deemed it my duty to you, from whom I received the appointment, to make you acquainted not only with my opinion and conduct on every important measure, but also with the reasons by which I have been guided.

This duty I am now about to fulfil in a case of the highest importance. Having, on two former occasions, declared to you in the most unreserved manner, my opinion respecting the differences which have unfortunately arisen between this country and France, I am now about to explain the reasons whereon that opinion is founded.

After stating some considerations which have induced me to believe that the charges alledged against us by France, are wholly unfounded, I shall endeavour to place her conduct and views respecting this country in their true light, and to develop the general system of policy towards other nations, which she appears to be pursuing. This part of the subject I apprehend will be found deserving of particular attention; for without taking into view her general plan of foreign policy, it will be extremely difficult to discern the principles whereby her conduct towards ourselves is directed.

And permit me, fellow-citizens, to introduce my remarks on this subject, by a declaration to the truth whereof most of you can bear witness. Permit me to declare, that while France appeared to be engaged in a struggle for liberty and national independence, no heart beat higher than mine with affection for her cause. I joined with enthusiasm in the general exultation of my country for