

The state of the national Treasury, as exhibited by the proper officer, requires an augmentation of existing taxes, and if, in addition to these, the people of Massachusetts, deprived of their commerce, and harassed by a formidable enemy, are compelled to provide for the indispensable duty of self-defence, it must soon become impossible for them to sustain this burden. There remains to them, therefore, no alternative but submission to the enemy, or the control of their own resources, to repel his aggressions. It is impossible to hesitate in making the election. This people are not ready for conquest or submission. But being ready and determined to defend themselves, and having no other prospect of adequate means of defence, they have the greatest need of all those resources derivable from themselves, which the national government has hitherto thought proper to employ elsewhere.

Your Committee are also of opinion, that if the war is to continue, provision for a military force, in addition to the ordinary militia, must be resorted to; that a considerable force must be constantly embodied and maintained, ready to meet the enemy in his varied and distant enterprises; that the continual calls upon great bodies of militia, to march from home, at all seasons, and to remain at a distance from their families, will be the most oppressive, and least economical of any mode of defence which can be devised, in a protracted warfare.

But while your Committee think, that the people of this Commonwealth ought to unite, and that they will unite, under any circumstances, at the hazard of all that is dear, in repelling an invading foe, it is not believed, that this solemn obligation imposes silence, upon their just complaints against the authors of the national misfortunes. It is, on the contrary, a sacred duty to hold up to view, on all occasions, the destructive policy, by which a state of unparalleled national felicity, has been converted into one of humiliation and danger; believing, that, unless an almost ruined people will discard the men and change the measures which have induced this state of peril and suffering, the day of their political salvation is past. It should never be forgotten, that this disastrous condition of public affairs has been forced upon Massachusetts, not merely against her consent, but in opposition to her most earnest protestations. From the moment that the administration, yielding to its own passions and calculations of party power, commenced its system of commercial hostility to Great-Britain, and of conformity to the views of the late tyrant of France, its tendency to involve the nation in the most needless and cruel embarrassments, was distinctly foreseen, and declared by former Legislatures. The insufficiency of our youthful, though flourishing commerce to cope with that of Great-Britain in a struggle of restrictions, was announced by the united warning of those best versed in a knowledge of this subject. It was never doubted by these persons, that a war with Great-Britain, would be accompanied by an extinction of commerce; by the banishment of our sailors; the desolation of our coast; the blockade and invasion of our sea ports; the failure of national credit; the necessity of oppressive taxes; and the consummation of national ruin, by an alliance with the late despot of Europe; from which greatest of all calamities, we have been preserved only by his fall. Of all these evils, were our rulers forewarned by Massachusetts, whose vital interests were thus put in jeopardy; and they were implored by every consideration of policy and humanity, to stay their hands from the cruel and wanton sacrifice of the interests of those, who asked from them, nothing but the privilege of pursuing their own industrious callings. But government, deaf to this voice, and listening to men distinguished in their native state, only by their disloyalty to its interests and the enjoyment of a patronage, bestowed upon them as its price, have affected to consider the patriotic citizens of this great state as tainted with disaffection to the union and with predilection for Great-Britain, and have lavished the public treasure, in vain attempts to fix, by evidence, this odious imputation. Thus dishon-