

ample, none to the precepts of Washington? Is it possible, either to acquire, or to maintain, extensive foreign conquests, without powerful standing armies? And did such armies ever long permit the people, who were so imprudent, as to raise and maintain them, to enjoy their liberties?

Instances of military oppression have already occurred, among us; and a watchful people, jealous of their rights, must have observed some attempts to control their elections, and to prostrate the civil, before the military authority. If the language of some men, high in office—if the establishment of a chain of military posts, in the interior of our country—if the extensive preparations which are made in quarters, where invasion cannot be feared, and the total abandonment and neglect of that part of our country, where alone it can be apprehended, have excited our anxiety and alarm, as to the real projects of our rulers, these emotions have not been diminished, by the recent invasion, seizure and occupation of the territory of a peaceable, and unoffending neighbor.

If war must have been the portion of these United States—if they were destined by Providence, to march the downward road to slavery, through foreign conquest and military usurpation, your Remonstrants regret, that such a moment, and such an occasion should have been chosen, for the experiment—that while the oppressed nations of Europe are making a magnanimous and glorious effort, against the common enemy of free States, we alone—the descendants of the Pilgrims—sworn foes to civil and religious slavery, should voluntarily co-operate with the oppressor, to bind other nations in his chains; that, while diverting the forces of one of his enemies, from the mighty conflict, we should endanger the defenceless territories of another, in whose ports the flag of our independence was first