

balance of power, in this respect, is as necessary on the ocean as on the land; and the control that it gives to the nations of the world, over the actions of each other, is as salutary in its operation to the individual government which feels it, as to all the governments, by which, on the just principles of mutual support and defence, it may be exercised. On fair, and equal, and honourable terms, therefore, peace is at the choice of Great Britain; but if she still determine upon war, the United States reposing upon the justness of their cause; upon the patriotism of their citizens; upon the distinguished valour of their land and naval forces; and, above all, upon the dispensations of a beneficent Providence, are ready to maintain the contest, for the preservation of the national independence, with the same energy and fortitude, which were displayed in acquiring it.

WASHINGTON, February 10, 1815.