

and menaces of America, and renouncing for ever the maritime rights in dispute.

May the report prove to be erroneous. It is due to the high characters which compose the present cabinet, to believe that it will be found so; and in that case I will joyfully apologise to them for having one moment listened to the tale.

But if there be indeed a yet unexecuted purpose of this nature in the mind of any British minister—if all the recent triumphs of our flag, and the majestic ascendancy of our navy, have not precluded the thought of thus truckling to the invaders of our maritime rights, then indeed it is high time for every Englishman who foresees the consequences, to lift up a warning voice, while there is yet a chance of being heard, and of averting the impending mischief.

Impressed with this anxious reflection, I feel that to arrest decision, is now the first and most urgent object, in this great national cause. To reply to those opponents whose arguments I have seen, would be no difficult task; but before I return their broadsides, I must run hastily upon deck, and beseech the commanding officers not yet to strike the colours.

A few hours only have elapsed since I took up the pen for this purpose, but with great difficulty how to reconcile the magnitude of the considerations which pressed upon me, with the urgent call for dispatch, when the arrival of a mail from America, quite accidentally, but most seasonably,