

violated some of our commercial rights ; that we should march inland, to defend our ships and seamen ; that, with raw troops, hastily collected, miserably appointed, and destitute of discipline, we should invade a country, defended by veteran forces, at least equal, in point of numbers, to the invading army : that bounty should be offered, and proclamations issued, inviting the subjects of a foreign power to treason and rebellion, under the influences of a quarter of the country, upon which a retort of the same nature was so obvious, so easy, and in its consequences so awful ;—in every aspect, the design seemed so fraught with danger and disgrace, that it appeared absolutely impossible, that it should be seriously entertained. Those however, who reasoned after this manner, were, as the event proved, mistaken. The war was declared. Canada was invaded. We were in haste to plunge into these great difficulties, and we have now reason, as well as leisure enough, for regret and repentance.

The great mistake of all those, who reasoned concerning the war and the invasion of Canada, and concluded that it was impossible that either should be seriously intended, resulted from this, that they never took into consideration the connexion of both those events with the great election, for the chief magistracy, which was then pending. It never was sufficiently considered by them, that plunging into war with Great Britain, was among the conditions, on which support for the Presidency was made dependent. They did not understand, that an invasion of Canada, was to be, in truth, only a mode of carrying on an electioneering campaign. But since events have explained political purposes, there is no difficulty in seeing the connexions between projects and interests. It is, now, apparent to the most mole-sighted, how a nation may be disgraced, and yet a cabinet attain its desired honours. All is clear. A country may be ruined, in making an administration happy.

I said, Mr. Speaker, that such strange schemes, apparently irreconcilable to common sense and common prudence, were, on that very account, more likely to be successful. Sir, there is an audacity, which sometimes stands men in stead both of genius and strength. And, most assuredly, he is most likely to perform that, which no man ever did before, and will never be likely to do again, who has the boldness to undertake that, which no man ever thought of attempting, in time past, and no man will ever think of attempting, in time future. I would not, however, be understood as intimating, that this cabinet project of invasion is impracticable, either as it respects the collection of means and instruments, or in the ultimate result. On the contrary, sir, I deem both very feasible. Men may be obtained. For if forty dollars bounty cannot obtain them, an hundred dollars bounty may,