

ing to avert the course of war, yet differ in their views of some questions connected with the controversy. The crisis seems to demand an emphatic expression of the opinions of the intelligent and wealthy classes—those who, if a war should unfortunately occur, will be called upon to support its heaviest pecuniary burdens, whilst at the same time their business is suspended or deranged, and their property destroyed or depreciated. Why not rouse yourselves, I would say to such, and do your duty to yourselves and to the republic.* If you neglect your duty now, you may have deep and lasting cause to repent of your neglect hereafter.

Yours, &c.

LETTER IV.

New-York, February, 1846.

DEAR SIR :

In the present letter I design to call your attention briefly to some of the difficulties and dangers which are to be apprehended, if we should unfortunately engage in war with Great Britain. Though there is at present ground to hope that such a conflict may not happen in our days, yet it is good to bear in mind the hazards with which it would be attended, especially as a proper sense of these is the best security, so far as regards the influence and action of too many of our citizens, against our rushing recklessly into the horrors of war. I am the more inclined to notice this subject, because I think the difficulties of such a war as we should have to wage with Great Britain are not fully appreciated by the present generation. The lessons of past experience seem to be in a great measure forgotten. Nothing but the exaggerated glories of the conflict in which our fathers were engaged, is generally remembered; the difficulties and disasters have been permitted to sink into oblivion. In treating this subject, I will pass very lightly over those matters which are open to the observation of the most cursory inquirer, and confine my attention chiefly to those which are most likely to pass unnoticed, especially by observers strongly influenced by national prejudices. For a more full and authoritative account of the financial difficulties

* "Quin expergiscimini igitur, et capessite rempublicam."