

Permit me now, sir, to call the particular attention of gentlemen to the message of the President at the opening of the May session, from which I beg leave to make a few extracts.

"A revision of the commercial laws, proper to adapt them to the arrangement which has taken place with Great Britain, will doubtless engage the early attention of congress."

Again. "Under the existing aspect of our affairs, I have thought it not inconsistent with a just precaution, to have the gun boats, with the exception of those at New Orleans, placed in a situation incurring no expense beyond that requisite for their preservation and conveniency for future service; and to have the crews of those at New Orleans reduced to the number required for their navigation and safety. I have thought also, that our citizens detached in quotas of militia, amounting to one hundred thousand, under the act of March one thousand eight hundred and eight, might not improperly be relieved from the state in which they were held for immediate service. A discharge of them has accordingly been directed. And it is further submitted to the judgment of congress to decide how far the change in our external prospects may authorise any modifications of the laws relating to the army and navy establishments."

What are the plain and obvious conclusions to be drawn from the "promptitude and frankness with which the President met the overtures of Great Britain," and the full confidence which he here manifests in the good faith of that government? The inference is irresistible, that he did not entertain the most distant suspicion, that Mr. Erskine had either acted without authority, or that he had violated his instructions. But suppose the resolution under consideration should be rejected. In that event, the expressions contained in Mr. Jackson's letter of the 11th of October, which are repeated in several other communications, conveying the idea, that the executive government of the United States had a knowledge that the arrangement made by Mr. Erskine in behalf of his govern-

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I shall now, British minister disavowed. I admitted, that the disavowment, the government, From this opinion was not engagements acknowledged thirdly, because United States. the minister of power of the government was clothed with the despatching the three purposes to this government.