

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.**

*The Committee to whom was referred the Message of his Excellency, with the Documents accompanying the same, respectfully REPORT in part—*

**THAT** the ruinous war, declared against Great-Britain, has assumed an aspect of great and immediate danger to this Commonwealth. The persevering invasion of Canada, has, at length, produced, as by natural consequence, the invasion of our Atlantic, Frontier, and *River* towns. A portion of the territory of this state, is already in the actual occupation of the enemy; and the sea-coast, in all such parts as may be deemed assailable, is openly menaced with desolation. To defend our soil, and to repel the invader, no force or means, bearing any proportion to the emergency, have been provided by the national government. It was justly to have been expected, that before hostilities were provoked from a formidable enemy, or, at least that, at some period subsequent to their commencement, means of defence and protection would have been afforded to a sea-coast so extended, and so exposed to the ravages of an enemy, as that of Massachusetts. But events forbid a reliance on any such expectation. The principal part of the regular force raised, or at any time quartered, in this state, has been withdrawn for the war on the Canada border. The fortifications, until lately strengthened by the exertions of our own citizens, were essentially defective; and the navy in a situation calculated to invite, rather than repel, aggression; and to require protection, instead of affording it. Indeed, when the circumstances under which the war was declared, and has been prosecuted, are viewed in connexion with the utter neglect of the ordinary preparation for such a state, the inference is fairly warranted, that the American cabinet intended no other means of defence for this state, but such as a brave and free people would feel themselves impelled to make, by their own sense of danger and love of country. That it relied upon the passions and sufferings, incident to a state of war, to overcome the repugnance so universally felt by our citizens to the unjust and ruinous contest; and to leave them at liberty to drain our population and our treasures for the prosecution of their favorite enterprises. But when the Commonwealth was found to be in danger of invasion, the people have not paused to consider the motives or objects of their national rulers, in leaving them defenceless; but at the summons of their Governor, they have repaired to the standard of their country, with a zeal and alacrity which demonstrate, that the principles which unite men of every class and description in the determination to conquer or die in its defence, are not enfeebled by our party divisions. Thousands of brave and hardy yeomanry, composing a part of a well provided and well disciplined militia, have hastened to the post of danger, and other thousands are ready to follow, at a moment's warning.—The most liberal and effectual aid has been afforded in erecting forts and batteries; and but one spirit animates the whole mass of our citizens, with the invincible resolution of defending their native land against the incursions of the enemy. It is, however, a fact, not to be disguised, that while the people of this state, with the blessing of heaven, have confidence in the sufficiency of their resources, for defending their own soil, if applied exclusively to this object; yet, they cannot be supposed equal to this, and also competent to respond to the heavy and increasing demands of the national government.