

by pretending that they should not operate against us ; but when she found she had a competent quantity of game within her reach she sprung the trap, and seized our unwary and deluded fellow citizens. This seizure and loss must be attributed to the inconceivable blindness, or willful submission of our Cabinet to the views of France. They affected to consider, or really believed this *half* veiled and syren like declaration of France sincere ; they, by this conduct, assisted to decoy our unhappy citizens ; and ashamed to avow their errors, they even at the present moment choose to consider that France has changed her views, rather than has intentionally deceived.

But Great Britain, far from imitating the detestable perfidy of France, frankly notified our government the preceding year, that unless resisted, she should be obliged to retaliate upon France those decrees, which through neutrals, were aimed at her existence. She not only did this, but after waiting in vain for the smallest movement on our part, when she actually issued her orders she gave the most ample time and notice to all neutrals, to avoid falling within their purview and effects.

*Thirdly.* The decrees of France were without limitation as to extent ; they embraced every dependency and colony of Great Britain, throughout the world.

But those of Great Britain left open to us the extensive colonies of her enemies ; and in short, every source of trade which was essential to our comfort and even prosperity.

It has been represented, for party purposes, that all this trade is upon the condition of paying her a "tribute," and even the late committee of Congress have given a colour to this assertion. It is, however, not true.—The duties demanded by her, and which are falsely called a "tribute" are only demandable in case we voluntarily go to Great Britain, and request a clearance for the continental ports of her enemies, which she blockades. This is merely *nominal*—a mere point of *honour* between her and France—because if Great Britain permitted you to go, France would not. Her decrees confiscate your property for the single crime of having been in a British port. The case, therefore, can never happen ; and she knew well that it never would happen. Why then was it imposed ? As a point of honour between her and her enemy. Her enemy said, No neutral shall ever enter the ports of England—I will capture and condemn them. Great Britain, in reply, says, No neutral who has submitted to this usurpation of France, shall go thither without first entering my ports ; and I will tax the products bound to my enemy, which will enhance the price, if he chooses to admit it. And yet, strange to relate, this qualification or modification is represented, *gravely represented*, by our impartial government, as more oppressive, more insulting than if it had been an absolute prohibition ;—than the decrees of France, which are an absolute prohibition ! But I repeat it, this is merely a *nominal* provision ;—for it can operate only in case France should repeal her decrees, in which case the whole fabric is destroyed :—But it