

his most inadmissible pretensions, those pretensions so incompatible with our sovereignty, so repugnant to our system of impartial neutrality, were renewed and unceasingly urged; and the steady refusal of our Government to yield to them, with its firm resolution, to persist in conducting our affairs in the manner which it conceived most conducive to our interests, and most consonant with justice towards other nations, have been made the ground of proceedings on the part of France, the most insulting and injurious. The French government has at length made that appeal to the people of America, which her Ministers formerly threatened. It has explained its pretensions, stated its complaints, and detailed its injuries. In revenge for those injuries, as it informs us, it has broken the treaty between the two countries, let loose its ships of war and privateers to pillage and maltreat our citizens, and has insultingly driven from its territory a minister sent expressly to explain and conciliate. It has declared that it will hear nothing from us, until the injuries of which it complains are redressed; or, in other words, that we must submit to the terms which it shall think proper to prescribe, before it will deign to negotiate, or even to converse, on the points in dispute. It has informed us that it is "terrible to its enemies;" reminded us, as it has very frequently done before, that we are indebted to it for our independence; and promised "that when we bring back our Government to its true principles, we shall again be regarded as friends and allies."