

estimate the consequences, the people may perhaps be roused to a sense of the calamities which must inevitably attend a contest that, if it comes, will be more terrible in its progress, and more disastrous in its results, than any which has been witnessed in modern times. But, sir, the declaration that republics never prepare for war, is as unfounded in fact, as it would be unwise in practice. There is not an instance recorded in history to which gentlemen can allude, to sustain them in the assertion, if we except the case of this Government previous to the war of 1812. The situation of this country then, was far different from what it is now. It was comparatively young and poor. A long course of aggression upon our commerce by the great contending Powers of Europe had, to a very considerable extent, ruined our commerce, which was still further crippled by the embargo and non-intercourse act. Our revenue from imports was diminished to the lowest point, and the internal resources of the country seemed to be paralyzed. Under these circumstances, the Government had not the means to prepare for war. But now the case is different. The wealth and resources of the country are ample. We have an overflowing treasury, and a revenue more than sufficient for all the wants of the Government. It is therefore the duty of those who press these measures with so much zeal, to prepare the country for the struggle into which we seem to be tending with so much rapidity; nor would there be any opposition on the part of the Whigs to the appropriations necessary for carrying it on. We deny the necessity, and denounce the intrigues that are carrying us to this dangerous issue, and will hold a terrible responsibility those who have been placed in charge of our public affairs. We will denounce the policy they pursue; but if, in their mad course for party ascendancy, they throw us into a struggle in arms with one of the most powerful nations of the earth, the party to which I have the honor to belong will not withhold their support from the necessary appropriations; nor will they be the last in the field of strife. Enough has been shown in the course of this debate to prove that this question has been stripped of its party character. Although, as I have said, it originated in party intrigues, and has derived all its importance from the schemes of designing politicians, it has now become a national question, and can never hereafter be of avail in any scheme of President-making. Such is the importance it has assumed in the eyes of the nation, and such are the momentous consequences involved in its decision, that it has swept away party lines and obliterated party distinctions. It has been shown, also, in the course