

wanton act on the part of Mr. King? Will it be alleged by any gentleman in opposition to this resolution, that Mr. King was actuated by any unworthy motive in that transaction? I presume to say that such insinuations will not receive the slightest support. To what cause then are we to look as the basis of this remonstrance? The turbulent and unprincipled character of Mr. Jackson must suggest itself to every mind as the foundation of the objection. The British ministry, on every occasion which required extraordinary duplicity, have availed themselves of the services of this incendiary: These facts cannot be controverted, and yet gentlemen tremble lest the fame of this immaculate personage should fall a sacrifice to the ruthless violence of legislative contumely.

[Mr. Gardenier said he supposed the gentleman alluded to him as attempting to patch up a character for Mr. Jackson. That, said Mr. G. I expressly disclaim; and if the gentleman had understood my argument, his candour certainly would have prevented him from imputing to me that intention. I did not speak of the merits of Mr. Jackson, but I took this point—that the British government considered his character as good, and our denunciation of it, whether it is demonstrated to be bad or not, so long as they think he does not deserve it, is calculated to produce an obstacle to negotiation which cannot be overcome. I did not speak of his character.]

Mr. P. said, he had understood the gentleman in the manner he had stated his argument; the house would determine whether he had understood him correctly or not. But sir, while gentlemen are thus anxious to save the rotten fabric of Mr. Jackson's reputation from the destruction which awaits it, are they ignorant of the deleterious effects which the rejection of this resolution would have on the character of the President of the United States? A man, whom eulogy cannot exalt, and who soars above the miserable shafts of calumny and detraction. In order to elucidate this point, I beg the indulgence of the house, to take a concise view of the measures which were in operation at the close of the last session of the tenth congress. Commercial intercourse between the United States and Great Britain and France and their dependencies, was wholly interdicted. Provision was made by law, for raising a military force of six thousand men, in addition to the military peace establishment of the United States—for manning and equipping the whole naval force, including a large number of gun boats for actual service, and for holding in requisition one hundred thousand militia to be ready to march at a moment's warning. These were the precautions which the crisis demanded. Well sir, what were the events which occurred to produce a relaxation in these preparations for a state of actual hostility? About one month previous to the meeting of the extraordinary session of congress in May last, it was officially announced to the President by David M. Erskine, the British minister plenipo-