

TO THE FARMERS, MERCHANTS, AND MECHANICKS OF NEW-ENGLAND.

FELLOW CITIZENS,

IF at any time a citizen is justified in making an appeal to your understanding, to your sober reason—If a cool and dispassionate display of your danger, and your true interests be at any period a duty, it surely becomes such, when you are threatened with a calamity by which your rights, liberties, property, and lives are to be exposed to the most imminent danger. *We are told by the public newspapers which have usually been the vehicles of the language of our administration—we are also informed, that many very influential men in and out of the administration, concur with the public papers in declaring, “that War will probably take place, and that it is *inevitable*, unless the government of Great Britain should make ample reparation for the attack on our frigate the *Chesapeake*.” We also know, that all descriptions of people in Great Britain, however opposed in political opinions, concurred in one sentiment, that Great Britain never could, and never ought to yield the principle for which they believed that we contend, the right of enlisting and harbouring the deserters from their publick ships of war. It is rendered almost certain, therefore, that Great Britain, “while she will explicitly disavow *the claim to search our national ships of war*, will nevertheless contend, that we have no right to enlist her deserters, and protect them under our publick flag, but that if we do so conduct, and refuse to deliver *them on demand*,

* See the language of the National Intelligencer, and of the Aurora, who consider war as inevitable, unless Great Britain grants reparation for the attack on the Chesapeake. Mr. Gallatin, Mr. Dearborn, and other publick officers are alleged to have declared that war is to be expected.