

suppose, as we have a thousand and a thousand times declared, that we have maintained an impartial neutrality towards those nations, so, to verify our declarations. we must now make war upon both, *impartially* ! And as their injuries are said to be equal, or, we will not inquire which has done us "the most harm:" so we must measure out to each an equal quantity of resentment, and give to each an equal number of blows !

In respect to our violated rights, so far as Great Britain is concerned, those presented by the administration in the front of our claims, are

I. An exemption from impressment of all seamen on board our merchant vessels.

II. A free trade with the colonies of her enemies.

III. An exemption from capture of our vessels destined for any port of her enemies not actually blockaded.

I am aware, sir, of the consequences of advancing any thing from which conclusions may be drawn adverse to the opinions of our own administration, which by many are conceived to be indisputably just. Merely to state these questions, and to mention such arguments as the British government may perhaps have urged in their support, on her side, is sufficient to subject a man to the popular charge of being under British influence, or to the vulgar slander of being a "British tory:" he will be fortunate to escape the accusation of touching British gold. But, sir, none of these things move me. The patrons of the miscreants who utter these slanders know better: but are nevertheless willing to benefit by the impression they may make on the minds of the people. From an early period of my life, I was zealously engaged in every measure opposed to the attempts of Great Britain to encroach upon our rights, until the commencement of our revolutionary war; and during its whole continuance, I was uninterruptedly employed in important civil or military departments; contributing all my efforts to bring that war to a successful termination.

I, sir, am not the advocate of wrong doers, to whatever country they belong; whether emperors or kings, or the administrators of a republic. Justice is my object, and truth my guide; and wherever she points the way, I shall not fear to go.

Great Britain has done us many wrongs. When we were colonies, she attempted to deprive us of some of our dearest birth-rights; rights derived from our English ancestors; rights which we defended and finally established by the successful conclusion of the revolutionary war. But these wrongs, and all the wounds of war, were intended to be obliterated and healed by the treaty of peace, when all enmities should have ceased.

Great Britain wronged us in the capture and condemnation of our vessels under her orders of 1793: and she has made reparation for these wrongs; pursuant to a treaty negotiated on *practical* principles, by a statesman who, with *liberal views* and *real candour*, sought adjustment and reparation.