

A GENERAL MEETING of the citizens, of New York, was this day, Wednesday 24th June, 1812, held at 12 o'clock in the Park, agreeably to public notice.

COL. HENRY RUTGERS was *unanimously* called to the chair, and—

COL. MARINUS WILLETT, appointed Secretary.

The Law of Congress declaring war against the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, and their dependencies, and the president's proclamation being read, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

IN one of those awful and interesting moments, with which it has pleased Heaven that States and Kingdoms should at times be visited—we consider ourselves now convoked to express our calm decided and animated opinion on the conduct of our government.

Peace has ever been considered one of the greatest blessings that an all bountiful Creator has vouchsafed to man upon earth, while war has ever been designated as the scourge of nations: but the *same* Allwise Providence has likewise permitted that, in the events of time, such circumstances should accrue to nations, as would render it not only *necessary*, but an *absolute duty*, to abandon the comforts and delights of peace, in order, that by a solemn appeal to arms, they may be enabled to secure to themselves equally important blessings; that by encountering, for a time, the disasters and vicissitudes of war, they may secure to *themselves*, and transmit to their *posterity*, those invaluable advantages to which, by the laws of nature, of nations, and of God, they, as independent governments, are justly entitled.

When a retrospect is taken of the last twelve years of our history, we find recorded there, the violation of one sacred right after another—we behold one continued series of insults—one long succession of oppressions. Our government, with the true spirit of a republic, patiently sustaining, while temperately remonstrating, until indignity has been added to indignity, and injury heaped upon injury. With a reluctance, common only to such as duly appreciate the blessings of peace, have they calmly endured and perseveringly negotiated, under a pious, but vain expectation, that reason and expostulation, would at length bring the nations injuring us, to a sense of equity, and thereby, avert the necessity of a resort to those ulterior measures, always direful in their operation, even to that party that is most successful.

Our government mild and peaceful in its very nature, and defenceless on the Ocean, has endeavoured, in the very spirit of meekness, by every wise, and at the same time, soothing expedient, to convince the belligerent nations of the justice of our councils; of our ardent wish to conduct in all things agreeably to the established usu-

ages of nations, and in such a manner, as to give them no just cause of offence: But knowing our maritime weakness in comparison with their strength, they have turned a deaf ear to the equity of our demands; and with the insolence common to superior and arbitrary power, have so accumulated the catalogue of our wrongs, that longer forbearance would be attended with the absolute prostration of all national character; an abandonment of the rights of an independent republic; and, would render our government unworthy of the confidence of its own citizens, and of the respect of the world.

Our government, therefore, with all calm deliberation, and with that *solemn delay*, that ever attends those, who are forced reluctantly from their tranquil and beloved abodes, to launch on a perilous and tempestuous ocean, have finally resigned the peace of the country into the hands of the Great Disposer of all events—and under his banner, with a perfect conviction of the equity of their cause, they have declared this country to be at war with G. Britain—

Therefore, resolved:—

That we have viewed with pleasure and approbation, the unceasing efforts of our government to preserve to our country the blessings of peace: That we duly appreciate their able negotiations, and admire their unwearied patience to promote so important an end; and that we consider them standing justified in the eyes of their fellow citizens, in all the restrictive measures to which they have resorted, as temporary expedients, with the hope of preventing thereby, the evils of *War*.

*Resolved.—*That while solicitous of peace, and ardently attached to its blessings, we believe that the crisis had arrived when it could no longer be with honour retained: that we, therefore, hold our government justified in its appeal to arms against Great Britain, and yield to its decision our unqualified and decided approbation.

*Resolved.—*That as our government has now appealed to the sword, it becomes the duty of all good citizens, at such an eventful period, to lay aside all party animosity and private bickering—to rally, as becomes brethren equally involved in the welfare of their common country, round the national standard, and to yield to their government an undivided support.

*Resolved.—*That placing our reliance in the Most High, and soliciting his benediction on our just cause, we pledge to our government, in support of our beloved country "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

*Resolved.—*That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and a copy transmitted by them to the President of the United States, and to both houses of Congress.

*Resolved.—*That the proceedings be published in every Newspaper printed in this city.

Henry Rutgers Chairman
Marinus Willett Sec^y