to measures, which, contrary to our essential interest, must involve us in unnecessary war? If so, if she will not listen to her wisest statesmen, but will support an administration inimical to this country, in a system of evasions, pretensious procrastinations and prevarications, she will too late discover her error; and by enlisting these states in the interest of her adversary, to which all her measures tend, will hasten her national overthrow; and by such a deplorable event will extend far and wide calamitous consequences.

To diminish, and exterminate, if possible, a party spirit, the Executive of this Commonwealth, during the last year, has confirmed in his place, or reappointed when requisite, every state officer, under its controul, who has been correct in his conduct, and faithful to his trust; disregarding his politics, and requiring only his support of the federal and state Constitutions, Governments and Laws, with a due regard to the rights of officers and individuals, subject to his official discretion. But it cannot be expected of any Executive, so far to disregard the sacred obligations of duty and honor, as to preserve in official stations, such individuals as would abuse the influence of their public characters, by sanctioning resistance to law, or by such other conduct, as will beguile peaceable and happy citizens, into a state of civil warfare.

For our metropolis, I have ever entertained an affectionate esteem and respect; and regret exceedingly, that she has not supported the salutary measures of this government, of the last year. Had this been done, we might have silenced the demon of party discord; have manifested such an invincible determination to preserve our Union, as would have animated our sister states to similar measures; and might have destroyed the germ of every hope to sever the United States. Of late years "the dismemberment of our Union" has been the avowed object in the ministerial papers of Great Britain; and to effect it, a war has been urged against these states. How mortifying would it be, for any of our fellow citizens, to find that their proceedings, unintentionally, had promoted such nefarious designs; and had thus entailed on them and on their posterity, an indelible stain? It is seldom admitted as an apology, that individuals, in the adoption of such dangerous means, had laudable and honest views; or that they possessed fair reputations; for these circumstances, serving to increase and extend the evil, excite a proportionate degree of public resentment.

Numerous instances of this kind existed at the commencement of our revolutionary war, and compelled our fellow citizens to exile themselves, and to spend the residue of their mournful days in foreign climes. It is remarkable likewise, that such of late years have been the politics of almost every commercial metropolis of our sister states, as to have driven from it, the state legislature. The reasons assigned have been the influx of foreigners, and a collection in those great seaports, of the declared malcontents of the National and state governments; individuals, who, with the uniform of Washington, have combatted the fundamental principles of our revolution, as delineated by that revered Patriot.—May our metropolis, by regaining the high ground which she once held, when *Americans* throughout Europe were denominated *Bostonians*, and BOSTON was considered as "*the Cradle of liberty*," sanctify these walls as the permanent seat of the Legislature; and firmly support our national and state governments, our Union and Independence. But although the great body of the people will always be careful to preserve internal peace, they must be prepared to meet incessant plots to divide and conquer them. And let me, gentlemen, address your reason, not your feelings, on this important subject. Who can contemplate, without chills of horror, the dismemberment of our Union, and a civil war? What is to be expected from these concomitant evils? We are now blessed by divine Providence above any other nation. We have national and state constitutions, which, by securing the freedom and frequency of elections; by the short tenure of legislative and executive offices; by the requisite qualifications of those in office; by the numerous checks required in free governments; and above all, by the entire dependence of those systems, on the sovereignty of the people, are rendered incapable of a sudden change to an arbitrary system of government. We are blessed with the free exercise of our civil and religious rights, with the prompt and due administration of justice—with a country capable of supplying all our wants and wishes—with a flourishing state of universities, and other seminaries of literature and of science in general—with a local situation, distant from the terrific scenes of unprecedented carnage—with an efficient national defence, by a patriotic and powerful militia; rendering unnecessary those expensive military establishments, which are oppressive and dangerous to liberty—with the extension, over the globe of a lucrative commerce; subject indeed at present, to great and inevitable embarrassments—and with innumerable other benefits.—And is it possible for us, by ingratitude of the deepest dye, to that omnipotent being who has so favored us, to violate every moral religious and political obligation? by destroying the greatest of social enjoyments, *our internal peace and tranquility*; by placing in military array, relatives, friends and fellow citizens, against each other; by exciting them to ungovernable fury; by urging them to profane our temples, to sack and burn our towns, to ravage our country, to lay waste our cultivated and beautiful fields, to strew them with the bodies of our most valuable citizens, to embrue their hands in the blood of our innocent women and children, and to pursue a ferocious warfare, which would extend through the land, plague, pestilence and famine.—This is but a faint picture of a civil war. Ten foreign wars are a luxury, when compared with one civil conflict. At all events, let us preserve peace at home, and wage war, if indispensable, with any nation, however powerful.

My objects, on this occasion, are to bring conviction to the minds of my fellow citizens, who may be in an error: not to wound or ruffle their feelings.—To recommend, gentlemen, by every mean in your power, the security of the blessings we enjoy—To suggest the necessity of a revision of our laws regulating elections; as well to prevent turbulent proceedings in our primary assemblies, as to ensure the right of ballot; which is a mode secret in its nature, for restraining an undue influence—To invite you to represent truly to our fellow citizens the nature and tendency of our national and state proceedings, and to exhort them to support as the Temple of our Liberty and Independence, the Government of the United States.

Let us attend for a moment, to the two great pillars of our prosperity, Agriculture and Commerce. These are such near relations, as that, the loss of one, will be death to the other. Nothing can be more unwise, than the establishment at home, of a market for the surplus of our produce and manufactures. The choice of foreign marts, for the sale of these, generally enhances, and often doubles their value. If any foreign power should inhibit our commerce with them, let us spurn at theirs, and exert ourselves to be independent of it, by a skilful management of the means we possess. And whilst our towering forests, fertile soils, and rich mines furnish us with ample materials for a navy, and our population, with intrepid officers and seamen to man it, let us proclaim from pole to pole, by our naval thunders, that we will defend to the last moment of our existence, our neutral maritime rights, and a commercial intercourse with every friendly nation.

TO JAMES MADISON,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Petition of the inhabitants of the town of New Haven, in Connecticut, in legal town meeting convened,

Respectfully sheweth,

That your petitioners are in general either directly engaged in mercantile pursuits, or in the occupations connected with them; in those pursuits they have embarked their fortunes, and from them they have not only a subsistence for themselves and families, but have furnished employment for great numbers of persons; to the Mechanic they have opened a market for the productions of his labour and skill; to the Farmer for the products of his fields; and at the same time they have essentially aided the public revenues by duties paid on their importations.

The foreign commerce in which your petitioners are engaged is principally with the British West India islands; in conformity to the laws of their country by which that trade was sanctioned, and without any suspicion that it would suddenly be prohibited, they shipped during the last summer and autumn as they always had been accustomed to do, numerous cargoes which have been sold on credit in the Islands, on an engagement to receive payment in produce when the crops come in which they generally do in the months of March and April—The property thus received, they have been in consequence of the non-importation law prevented from bringing home; and your petitioners have now from this and other causes a large amount of property in the British West India islands, which must remain there greatly to their loss and disadvantage until that law is repealed; in the mean time their vessels will be useless to them, their seamen unemployed, and a commerce once profitable and flourishing, abandoned.

Your petitioners, while engaged in a lawful commerce, have thus suddenly, without time being allowed them to escape, been overtaken by these calamities. Under such circumstances of suffering, they very naturally enquire from whence they proceeded, and whether they were inflicted by a constitutional authority? In making this enquiry, they cannot forget that one important grievance complained of in the Declaration of Independence was "cutting of our trade," and that "to establish commerce," was one of the great objects proposed in that memorable instrument; nor can they bring themselves to believe, that in the national compact by the power "to regulate commerce," the States intended to grant a power to destroy it.

Your petitioners are far from imputing to the general legislature any but the most correct motives in passing the non-importation law, but the consequences of that law, are peculiarly destructive to their interests, it places them in a state of uncommon embarrassment, it ruins their property, and they perceive no relief except from its repeal.

If the operation of the non-importation law, thus severe and oppressive, not only to your petitioners, but to all persons concerned in foreign commerce does not present one of those "extraordinary occasions" which authorises the President to convene Congress:—Your petitioners respectfully suggest, that such an "occasion" may be found in the change which has taken place in our foreign relations. The President's proclamation and the law in question, were founded on an engagement of the French government to revoke the Berlin and Milan decrees. Those decrees, it now appears, have in fact not been revoked. That power has not ceased to violate our neutral rights. She sequesters our property in her ports; she burns or sinks our vessels on the ocean, and what is still more difficult to comprehend, after such acts the authors of these injuries and insults receive by law an hospitable reception in our harbors.

Your petitioners, therefore, respectfully solicit the President of the U. States to convene Congress as speedily as his power will constitutionally allow, in order to enable them to take the subject of this petition into consideration, and of granting to your petitioners such relief as the nature of the case requires.

And your Petitioners, as in duty buound, &c.

PRESIDENT'S ANSWER.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of New Haven.

I have received, fellow citizens, the petition which you have addressed to me, representing the inconveniences experienced from the existing non-importation law, and soliciting that the National Legislature may be speedily convened.

It is known to all, that the commerce of the United States has, for a considerable period, been greatly abridged and annoyed by edicts, of the belligerent powers, each professing retaliation only on the other; but both violating the clearest rights of the United States, as a neutral nation. In this extraordinary state of things, the legislature, willing to avoid a resort to war, more especially during the concurrrent aggressions of two great powers, themselves at war, the one with the other, and determined on the other hand against an unqualified acquiescence, have endeavoured, by successive and varied regulations affecting the commerce of the parties, to make it their interest to be just.

In the act of congress out of which the existing non-importation has grown, the state of commerce was no otherwise than qualified by a provision, that in case either of the belligerents should revoke its unlawful edicts, and the other should fail to do the same, our ports should be shut to the vessels and merchandize of the latter. This provision, which, like all other previous offers, repelled the very pretext set up by each, that its edicts against our trade with the other, was required by an acquiescence in like edicts of the other, was equally presented to the attention of both. In consequence of the communication, the French government declared that its decrees were revoked. As the British government had expressed reluctance in issuing its orders, and repeatedly signified a wish to find in the example of its adversary, an occasion for putting an end to them, the expectation was the more confident, that the occasion would be promptly embraced. This was not done; & the period allowed for the purpose having elapsed, our ports became shut to British ships and merchandize. Whether the conduct of the French government has been, and will be such as to satisfy the authorised expectations of the United States; or whether the British government may have opened, or will open the way, for the executive removal of the restrictions on British commerce with the United States, which it continues in its power to do, by revoking its own unlawful restrictions on our commerce, is to be ascertained by further information; which will be received & employed by the executive, with that strict impartiality which has been invariably maintained towards the two belligerents.

Whatever may be the inconveniences resulting in the mean time, from the non-importation act, it was not to have been supposed, that whilst it falls within the necessary power and practice of regulating our commercial intercourse with foreign countries, according to circumstances, the act would be regarded as not warranted by the constitution; or whilst it was a partial restriction only, and had for its object an entire freedom of our commerce, by a liberation of it from foreign restrictions unlawfully imposed, it could be viewed as destroying commerce; and least of all, that a likeness could be seen between a law enacted by the representatives of the country, with a view to the interest of the country; and acts of a government in which the country was not represented, framed with a view to the interest of another country, at the expense of this.

If appeals to the justice of the belligerents, through their interests, involve privations on our part also; it ought to be recollected, that this is an effect inseparable from every resort, by which one nation can right itself against the injustice of others.

If sacrifices made for the sake of the whole, result more to some than to other districts or descriptions of citizens, this is an effect, which tho' always to be regretted, can never be entirely avoided. Whether the appeal be to the sword, or to interruptions or modifications of customary intercourse, an equal operation on every part of the community can never happen. Nor would an unqualified acquiescence in belligerent restrictions on our commerce, if that could be reconciled with what the nation owes to itself, be less unequal in its effect on different local situations and interests.

In estimating the particular measure which has been adopted by the National Councils, it may be reasonably expected therefore, from the candor of enlightened citizens, that with the peculiarity of the public situation, they will be impressed also with the difficulty of selecting the course more satisfactory, and best suited to diminish its evils or shorten their duration; that they will keep in mind, that a resort to war must involve necessary restrictions on commerce, and that were no measure whatever opposed to the Belligerent acts against our commerce, it would not only remain under the severe restrictions now imposed by foreign hands, but new motives would be given, for prolonging and invigorating them.

These observations are not meant to anticipate the policy which the Legislature may henceforward find best adapted, to support the honor or promote the interest of the nation; or to prejudge questions relative to particular changes, which may be pointed out by experience or be called by the state of our foreign relations. Neither do they imply any predetermination as to the measure of convening the Legislature, which will be a duty to adopt or decline, as our national affairs may appear to require.

The view of our situation presented to your patriotic reflections, has been suggested by that contained in your address; and it will have its desired effect, if it recalls your attention to the peculiar embarressments with which the national Councils have had to contend; and enforces the importance of manifesting the union of all, in supporting the measures of the constituted authority whilst actually in force, which is as necessary to their effect at home and abroad, as it is consistent with the right, and with the legitimate modes of seeking a revisal of them. In the mode which the town of New-Haven has employed, I witness with satisfaction, that in exercising the right of freemen, the obligation of citizens has not been forgotten; and that it affords a pledge and an example which I am far from undervaluing.

I tender you my respects and my friendly wishes.

JAMES MADISON.

Washington, May 24, 1811.

BALTIMORE, June 18.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

By the arrival of the brig Mentor, Barnard, at New York, Saturday last from Liverpool, which port she left on the 12th ult. London papers to the 9th and Lloyd's list to the 3d of May were received.

Mr Foster sailed from Portsmouth 5th of May in the Minervia, 36 guns, Hawins, for the United States. The vessel was destined for the Chesapeak.

Mr. Pinkney and his family left Cowes in the Essex, on the 7th of May for his return home.

Mr. Smith had arrived at Dartmouth in a cartel from Morlaix, was anxious to see Mr. Pinkney before he left England; but it was feared he was too late.

The intelligence from Spain, brought by the above arrival, appears rather favourrble to the cause of the patriots.—Badajoz and Almeida had not surrendered; nor had marshal Beresford been taken prisoner. The marshal was at Santa Martha on the 14th April.—Regnier's division was marching towards Estramadura.

An article from Helsinburgh mentions a rencounter between some Prussian and French troops at Colberg, in consequence of the latter wishing to march through that place, not improbably to seize the opportunity of occupying it. The Prussians were commanded by gen. Blaucher, who succeeded in preventing the passage of the French.

Prince Dolgorucky has been appointed by the court of Russia ambassador extraordinary to Naples.

The frigate United States, commodore Decatur, anchored off Sandy Hook on Saturday evening.

The king of Prussia sat out on the 10th April for Potsdam. Rumor stated that he was destined for Russia, taking with him a large part of his army—and that this was the cause of the French troops hastening towards the north; but the report appears only to have originated in the fact of his going to Potsdam, his summer residence.

NEW YORK, (EVENING) June 15.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

Since our paper went to press, the ship Mentor has arrived in 30 days from Liverpool, bringing London dates to the 9th May, inclusive. A British frigate, with Mr. Foster, and the American frigate Essex, with Mr. Pinkney, sailed from Portsmouth (England) for America, on the 6th of May. The brig Rose-in-Bloom, Olcott, from Bordeaux, for New York, with the new French minister, has been taken by a British cruizer and sent into England. A body of French troops, in attempting to pass through the Polish frontier without permission, was attacked by Gen. Blucher and defeated with the loss of 200 killed, and 800 wounded. The prospect of a war between France and Russsia strengthened daily.

LATEST FROM LISBON.

The following is an extract of a letter from our correspondent at Lisbon, dated April 29, sent by the Amazon, arrived this afternoon:

"Upwards of 40 sail of American vessels have arrived at this port since the 19th, loaded chiefly with flour, corn and rice. Upwards of 6000 bbls. of flour have been shipped from this place to Oporto, where flour (from the last account, say 22d inst.) was worth $22 per bbl. on board ship. Exchange 70 the Milrea.

"*Prices Current at this place this day on board ship:* Flour $15 50, rice 6 87 1-2 pr. 132 wt. corn $2 50 pr. bush. Exchange 70 Milrea. Paper Currency 20 per cent. discount."

FROM LISBON.

Capt. Turner, of the ship Amazon, who arrived this morning, in 45 ds. fr. Lisbon, confirms our former accounts, that the French were entirely driven out of Portugal. He states that Lord Wellington's head quarters were within 40 miles of Badajos, which place was occupied by 5000 French troops. Capt. T. also mentions that Lisbon had been illuminated for three nights on account of the successes of the combined armies; and he adds that several British regiments had just arrived from England to reinforce the army of lord Wellington.

FAYAL, March 10, 1811.

To the Editors of the Boston Patriot.

SIRS—I send you for record in your valuable paper, the following account of a remarkable phenomenon that has lately happened at St. Michaels, contained in a letter I recently received from *Thomas Hickling*, vice consul of the United States for that Island—As the SHOAL therein mentioned will probably expose ships to danger, it is desirable that this information should be generally diffused, that mariners may be guarded against it.

I am, &c.

JOHN B. DABNEY,

Consul of the U. S. for the Azores.

St. MICHAELS, Feb. 21, 1811.

Dear Sir,

On the 29th, 30th, and 31st ult. we were alarmed by frequent shocks of earthquakes—say upwards of twenty;—and on the 1st inst. information was received here that a Volcano had broken out *in the sea*, five leagues west of this port and half a league from the land, in fifty or sixty, and some fishermen say in seventy or eighty fathoms of water. I repaired immediately to that part of the island, and to my utter astonishment, saw a vast column of black smoke issuing out of the ocean. The wind was a gale from the southward and blew the smoke over the land. The sea was excessively agitated, and the surf on the shore was frightful. I was assured by the peasants, that the preceding night fire had been emitted; and being curious to ascertain that fact, I returned to the city, and desired my son and son in law to go and tarry opposite the Volcano all night—They did so; and saw at various times, during the night, fire issue forth like a number of rockets, discharged together. Large masses of stone, or lava, were continually thrown above the surface of the sea. Wonderful, indeed, how fire could pierce such a vast body of water—yet such was actually the case. In eight days it entirely subsided, *leaving a Shoal on which the sea breaks.*—What a happy deliverance for us, for had this formidable Volcano opened on the land, it would probably have gone near to have ruined this fine island.

I am, &c. &c. T. H.

The trial of the case of Livingston, versus Jefferson in the United States circuit court held in Richmond, has been postponed in consequence of Judge Tyler's being obliged to attend to his judicial duties at Norfolf. Chief Justice Marshall would not sit alone to hear the case.