160 old bayonets
1 chest full of do.
1 box full of do.
35 old cutlasses
378 gun worms
45 prickers and brushes
54 wooden cartridge boxes
15 wooden canteens
The wood part of about 12 cartridge boxes
3 pair of grape shot
1 do. of musket
1 powder proof
1 gunner's quadrant
3 copper powder measures
7 copper hoop powder barrels
2 ditto, gun ladles
1 jack screw
1 elevating screw
1 gin for hoisting guns
2 tackle falls with blocks
2 large careening blocks
2 halberts
A large flag for the stadt house
2 espontoons
1 small box with some gun mounting
6 arm chests
6 ammunition boxes
A number of old pikes, rammers and tent poles, and other little articles not enumerated
2400 new muskets
79 old ditto, wanting repairs.

Total of Infantry,	39539
Cavalry,	1285
Artillery,	486
Total of Militia,	41410

JOHN GASSAWAY,
Adjutant General.

TWELFTH CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Wednesday, Dec. 11.

MR. WRIGHT'S SPEECH

On the second Resolution reported by the Committee of Foreign Relations.

MR. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker—I must beg the indulgence of the house, while I deliver my opinion on the subject now under consideration, the most important that has been submitted to the Congress of the United States. I, sir, shall take the liberty of varying the question from the Honorable Member from Virginia, (Mr. Randolph) who yesterday considered it a question of peace or war—I shall consider it as a question of war or submission, dire alternatives, of which, however, I trust, no honest American can hesitate in chusing, when the question is correctly stated, and distinctly understood. The gentleman from Virginia contends, that it is a dispute about the carrying trade, brought on us by the cupidity of the American merchants, in which the farmer and planter, have little interest; that he will not consent to tax his constituents to carry on a war for it; that the enemy is invulnerable on the "mountain wave," the element of our wrongs, but should they violate the "natale solum," he would point all the energies of the nation, and avenge the wrong. Was that gentleman stricken on the nose, by a man so tall that he could not reach his nose, I strongly incline to think his manly pride would not parmit him to decline the conflict. Sir, the honorable member is incorrect in his premises, and of course in his conclusions. I will endeavor to convince him of this, and shall be gratified could I enlist his talents on the side of a bleeding country. Sir, the violations of the commercial rights of which we complain, do not only embrace the carrying trade, properly so called, but also the carrying of the products of our own soil, the fruits of our own industry; these although injuriously only to our property, are just causes of war. But, sir, the impressment of our native seamen, is a stroke at the vitals of *liberty itself*, and although it does not touch the "natale solum," yet it enslaves the "nativos filios," the native sons of America, and in the ratio, that liberty is preferable to property, ought to inlist the patriotic feelings of that honorable member, & make his bosom burn with that holy fire that inspired the patriots of the revolution.

Sir, the carrying trade, by which I mean the carrying articles the growth, produce or manufacture of a foreign clime, (except articles contraband of war) is as much the right of the American people, as the carrying the products of their own soil, and is not only secured by the law of nations, but by the positive provisions of the British treaty. To us, sir, it is an all important right—We import from the West Indies, annually, property to the amount of forty millions of dollars, for which we pay in the products of our own soil; of this, ten millions only are consumed in the U. States, & the surplus thirty millions, are exported to foreign countries, on which the American merchant pays three per cent. on the duties to the United States, obtains the profits on the freight of thirty millions of dollars & furnishes a market for American productions to the same amount. The honorable gentleman from Virginia said, that, that little spot in Maryland, Baltimore, which was well fortified and secure from an attack, had unbounded influence, "that the Lords of Baltimore," governed the representatives of Maryland, in their votes on this subject. No, sir, every district of Maryland solemnly protests against submission to any foreign power, and I have no doubt, will approve the votes of their members on this floor, "to prepare for war" or, for war itself, rather than submission. Baltimore, by the industry and commercial enterprize of her citizens, has grown out of the sea, into a great commercial city, has diffused the benefits of commerce into every section of the state, by making a great demand for the products of our soil and industry, and a consequent increase of price, whereby every foot of Land in Maryland is made more valuable, and whereby the interest of every part of the state is identified with theirs; for this she is justly entitled to our respect. But, sir, she has no occasion to infuse her patriotic fire, (so pre-eminent in the case of the Chesapeake) into the representatives of Maryland. They know the wishes of their constituents, & will most certainly obey them.

Mr. Speaker—I hope if the gentleman from Virginia will not defend the carrying of foreign articles, he will defend the carrying the products of our own soil, a right most disgracefully violated. When our own citizens have been carrying provisions, the produce of their own soil in their own ships to feed the armies of England, and her allies, on the continent of Europe, they have been captured on their homeward bound passage, on their own coast, and condemned in a British Court of Admiralty. If this does not inspire him, yet I am not without hopes that when he reflects on the impressment of our native American seamen carrying the products of our own industry to market, thousands of whom at this moment are languishing under the ignominious scourge, on board the infernal floating castles of Great Britain, he will feel like an American, devoted to avenge their wrongs. He has said that if G. Britain had an agency in exciting the Indians to the massacre of the troops under gov. Harrison he would avenge it. Sir, can he feel less bound to avenge the slavery and death of American impressed seamen, committed directly by Britons themselves, than the death of citizens by the savages through a British agency. I should like to hear him exercise his logical talent in the discrimination of these cases, which however profound, would I presume be inaffectual to that purpose. Sir, the impressment of American seamen is of ancient date, the outrage was remonstrated against by our Washington, and by every administration since, and every diplomatic energy, in every administration, exerted, to put a stop to this infamous practice, is vain.

Mr. Speaker, I ask honorable gentlemen if we are not bound by the most solemn ties to protect our seamen by all the lawful means we possess? I have ever considered, that protection, and allegiance, were reciprocal obligations, the counter parts of each other; that the protection of the citizen in his liberty, was secured to him by the constitution, and every member of the government, bound by oath, to support that constitution securing to him that right. I ask, sould an impressed American seaman (who had been for seven years under the lash, and whom we had during that time neglected,) be indicted for high treason, when found with our enemies in arms against us, should he plead specially that fact, would it avail him; and if it would not, how can we neglect to protect him in his liberty, secured by the social compact, which we are bound by oath to execute.—Mr. Speaker, it is well known that my sympathies have always been enlisted for this hardy and valuable class of our fellow-citizens, who tho' poor, yet as "honest tars" proverbially, in a peculiar manner, are entitled to our protection.

Sir, we all recollect the capture of the Philadelphia by the Turks, and we can never forget, how the news, of so many of our fellow-citizens being subjected to Turkish bondage, in a moment, electerised the sympathies of the American people; that a squadron was without delay dispatched to the Mediterranean, and a large sum of money voted for their ransom: But sir, we have so long submitted to the British impressments of our seamen that it has become an old story, and we seem to have set down easy under it, instead of making them pay for it, with interest. But sir, the murder of Pierce in our own waters, the killing of our citizens in the Chesapeake, the hanging of Wilson in cold blood taken out of that ship by violence, and the very recent case of the American citizen impressed into the Little Belt, and compelled to fight against his own countrymen, who was killed in that action, are fresh in our recollection, and if these outrages, which cry aloud for vengeance, do not animate you, I fear the sacred fire, that inspired your fathers, in the revolution, is nearly extinguished, and the liberty of their degenerate sons, in jeopardy.—Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Virginia has declared that if he could believe that the late massacre of the troops, in the attack on gov. Harrison by the Indians under the Prophet, was the effect of a British agency, he would unite with us heart and hand, and personally assist to avenge the bloody deed. I feel a confidence that if the gentleman will attend to the circumstances of this case, and take a retrospective view of the conduct of the British government, he will feel no doubt of the fact. I will take the liberty of pointing the gentleman's attention to some of the prominent features of that government, which will go far in establishing that fact—When Dunmore governor of Virginia, in seventeen hundred and seventy-five, found it necessary to quit the seat of government, and go on board the fleet, for safety from the revolutionary vengeance of the patriots of Virginia—At a period, too, when the Americans were suing for justice by their humble petitions, to the king and parliament; and when that Chatham the gentleman from Virginia has so highly extolled, was the advocate of our violated rights, Dunmore issued a proclamation inviting the negroes to his standard, to cut the throats of their masters, and promised them a pardon. This fact I know, from having presented that proclamation to a court, at Northampton, in Virginia, to induce them to commute the punishment of death, (passed on some of the victims of his perfidy,) to working in the mines; which they did. I will next remind the gentleman of the speech of lord Dorchester, to the Indians, after the peace, in which he advises them to use the tomahawk and scalping knife, whereby numbers of the inhabitants on the frontiers of all ages sexes and conditions were sacrificed. This was the cause of the Indian war that shortly after took place. This fact was tested by the newspapers of the day, which had universal credit.

The cases go to prove that the principles that ought to govern civilized nations have at all times been totally disregarded by the officers and agents of that government. After these cases, we shall feel little hesitation in believing there was a British agency in the case of the massacre by the Prophet's troops on governor Harrison's detachment, when the circumstances relied on, are duly considered. At the late great council with governor Harrison the chiefs of many tribes were convened, all of whom, Except Degumsee, the Prophet's brother, in their speeches, avowed their friendly dispositions, and devotion to peace with the United States—Degumsee, who, with a number of his tribe, came from Fort Malden, in Canada, declared his hostile intentions against the United States, left the council with that avowed intention, and returned again to Fort Malden, shortly after which, the Shawanese assembled a large body in arms in the Indiana territory, under the Prophet, and committed the assault on the troops of gov. Harrison, tho' they have paid for their temerity—This, I trust, connected as it is with the immorality and extraordinary pretensions of that government at this crisis, will satisfy, not only the gentleman from Virginia, but this house, of a British agency in the case.

But to divert our attention from the wrongs of which we complain, the gentleman from Virginia tells us that our own restrictive system has undone us; that our cotton is reduced to seven cents and our tobacco to nothing. Sir, there are now no restrictions to the exportation of these articles, and if that had been the cause, on its removal the effect would have ceased with it. No, sir, we are to look for the cause of the reduction of the prices of our cotton and tobacco in the political and commercial history of Europe—The price of cottons depended on the continental markets, from which the British manufacturers are excluded. The price of tobacco never was materially varied by the consumption in England, but depended on the foreign demand from Grert Britain, which, by their exclusion from the continent, is almost entirely arrested. Sir, if we examine with candor the cause of the reduction of the prices of these articles we shall find that the retaliatory system of the two great belligerents produced it: The "British proclamation blockading system" of eighteen hundred and six induced the continental blockade of eighteen hundred and seven, and ultimately the interdiction of all articles the growth, produce or manufacture of Great Britain to the continent.

America, ever faithful to herself, determined to preserve a state of neutrality, and not to commit her destinies with either of the great belligerents who were deciding the rise and fall of empires, by the sword, and recording their destinies in blood. Our policy was peace, and in this we persevered with a degree of equanimity unexampled in the annals of the world; nor, sir, was the non intercourse act, now so violently complained of by Great Britain, marked with the slightest shade of partiality. By that act at the same time, and, as it were "uno flatu," we offered to both nations, the same terms, and agreed not to import any articles the growth, produce or manufacture of the other, her colonies or dependencies, on either revoking their edicts violating our neutral commerce, unless they should within three months thereafter revoke their edicts. The Emperor of the French did revoke his decrees, but the British did not revoke their orders in council within the three months, but Congress, in her peaceful policy, by a law, *invited* her, and authorised her to do it at any time, so that in fact she may be considered as fixing the restrictions of which she complains, on herself, as she has it in her power to remove them at her will and pleasure.

Sir, the monstrous pretensions insisted on by her minister, near the United States, were not less exceptionable in their manner, than in their matter.—However, the American minister in a stile and manner that did honor to his head and his heart, detected and exposed their falacies, and placed the United States on that high ground her just claims entitled her to hold, and gave a celebrity to that state paper, that it will be quoted with pride by the American statesman, as the mirror of British insolence.

Mr. Speaker—I regret that the gentleman from Virginia, should ascribe to the gentlemen of the west, a disposition for war, with a view to raise the price of their hemp, or to the gentlemen of the north, with a view to raise the price of their beef & flour. These, sir, are selfish motives, and such as I cannot for a moment believe will be taken into consideration in deciding this important question—they will with every other section of the union, unite in deciding it on its merits; they will count the wrongs we have sustained; they will reflect that the honor, the interest and the very independence of the United States, is directly attacked—they will, as guardians of the nations rights, agreeably to the advice of the administration "put the United States into an armour and attitude demanded by the crisis, and correspondent with the national spirit & expectations," they will prepare to chastise the wrongs of the British cabinet, which the President tells us "have the character as well as the effect of war, on our lawful commercial rights, which no Independent nation can relinquish." They will decide with the President, the Executive organ of the nations will, "that these wrongs are no longer to be indured."—They will decide with the Committee of foreign relations, "that forbearance longer to repel the wrongs has ceased to be a virtue," & I hope they will decide with me, that submission is a crime; &, sir, if they will examine a document on that table, I mean the returns of the Twelfth Congress, and compare them with the eleventh—they will find nearly one half of the eleventh congress removed—This, Sir, may correctly be considered as the sentence of the nation against the doctrine of submission, it is certainly an expression of the nation's will, in a language not to be misunderstood, and too serious in its application not to be respected. We have also, sir, the expression of Maryland through her Senate, who unanimously approved the spirited Resolutions, introduced by the late governor, who did not suffer his exposed situation, so alarming in the opinion of the gentleman from Virginia, to deter him from doing his duty. We have also, sir, the resolutions of the legislature of Pennsylvania, an honest test of their non-submission principles. Mr. Speaker, I can not forbear the remark, that while the gentleman from Virginia, ascribes to the west and to the north, interested motives, he confesses, that the situation of the blacks in the state he represents, impressed as they are with the new French principles of liberty, and their desire for the fraternal hug, are seriously to be feared; that these new principles have been taught them by the pedlars from the east, who while they sell their trinkets inculcate these doctrines, he suffers his fears, for the state he represents, in the event of a war, on account of the blacks, to *interest* him; and had he not told us that if the "natale solum," was touched, or that if there was a British agency in the late attack on Governor Harrison he would go to war—I should have been ready to conclude, that as the state of the blacks would be a permanent objection, no cause could occur that would induce him to go to war.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Virginia says, he expects to be charged with being under British influence, however, he disregarded it. I assure him I shall not be one of his accusers; I believe him governed by *himself* and influenced by pure American motives, and that if he saw the subject as I do, his bosom would burn with the same sacred fire to avenge our wrongs: and was I to hear him charged in his absence with being under British influence, I should repel it, notwithstanding he has told us in a prideful manner, that he had descended from British ancestors; that from a Shakespeare he had formed his taste, from a Locke his mind, from a Chatham his politics, from a Sidney his patriotism, & from a Tillotson his religion. Mr. Speaker, had I been that honorable member, I should have boasted a nobler line of ancestry, I should have claimed my descent from the beardless Powhatan, & the immortal Pocahontas, and I should have taken as models from my own state, a Henry for my eloquence, a Jefferson for my politics, a Washington for my patriotism, and a Madison, or rather the oracles of revelation for my religion. But sir, I am myself so much a Roman, that I can truly say in their language

Aut genus aut proavos, aut qua non fecimus ipse, vix ea nostra voco.

Honor & shame, from no condition rise,
Act well your part, there all the honor lies.

Sir, the charge of Foreign Influence, and the recrimination of one political party by the other are unpleasant things. I should rejoice to see the curtain of oblivion drawn over them, and all uniting under the nobler distinction of American. I sir, feel it due to the federalists of Maryland to declare, that when the outrage was committed on the Chesapeake, they expressed an equal zeal to avenge the wrong and to volunteer their services under the standard of their common country. Nor, sir, can I from the pleasing aspect this house presented when acting on the first resolution, feel a doubt that they will on all proper occasions, zealously co-operate in protecting the solid interest of this country, to which their destinies are committed.

Sir, I sincerely regret that the gentleman from Virginia should treat with so much freedom, that class of society, which in case of a war must make the standing army. It was illy calculated to aid the recruiting service, to call them "the scouring of the seaports, to be collected by the scavengers of the army," "the engines of despotism," ever dangerous to liberty. This could have no good effect. That there is a mixt society in the seaports I admit, adventures from all nations, but the great mass of our people is truly respectable, and I trust the honesty of their principles is not to be measured by any standard of wealth. The usual bounty & with the 160 acres of land, and the love of their country will induce our respectable young men to enlist, they will never suffer those rights, *their inheritance*, purchased by the blood of their fathers of the revolution to be lost by a degeneracy of their sons. I wish gentlemen when they speak of the soldiery would recollect, how they came into that house, and by whose blood the independence of the United States was purchased.—Sir, if they will examine their own history they will find that the tax in blood was paid by the poor in the ratio sixty-four, to four the number of privates when compared with the officers, & indeed they will find that many of the best officers were poor. Sir, we know many of the privates of that army who are now among the most respectable of our citizens.

Sir, have we forgot the disinterested patriotism of a Paulding, a Williams & a Vantwert, who conducted Andre to the gibbet? They were poor, but honest—gold could not corrupt them.

Mr. Speaker, the same patriotism that inspired their fathers yet inspires their sons—We have with national pride seen a Summers, a Wadsworth and an Israel, to liberate their brothers in arms from Turkish slavery, perform a prodigy of valor unexampled in the pages of history: It has been honorably recorded in the archives of congress; & their monuments in the navy-yard will ever be dear to American seamen, and an evidence of the magnanimity of the naval officers, who, at their own expence, erected them, and who, in a war for their impressed brother tars, I have no doubt would distinguish themselves whenever an occasion presented itself.

But, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Virginia, could he be reconciled to a war and a regular army, would have, as he tells us, insuperable difficulties on account of a commander in chief; he says we have no Washington, and that our present chieftain is an "acquitted felon." Sir, our Washington was little known at the commencement of the revolution, nor after he was known could his distinguished character secure him against intrigues to remove him from the command of the army; however, they fortunately failed. I am truly sorry, sir, that the delicacy of the situation of the gentleman from Virginia, and the more delicate situation of general Wilkinson, now under a trial by a court-martial, had not restrained his invectives. In such a case the press is muzzled, nor ought such freedom of speech to be indulged in this house.

I hope I shall be excused for presenting the resolutions of that congress who were distinguished in history as "a constellation of worthies," testing the early, the active, and distinguished services of gen. Wilkinson, a native of Maryland, with whom I have been long acquainted:

Nov. 6, 1777, in Congress, Resolved, that Col. James Wilkinson, adjutant general of the Northern Army, in consideration of his service in that Department, and being strongly recommended by Gen. Gates, as a gallant of-