PHILADELPHIA, MAY 21.

THE TRIUMPH OF PATRIOTISM.

Great pains having been taken lasterly to communicate an impression of the aversion of the First Congressional District of Pennsylvania to the energetic measures of the federal government, it was deemed proper to give this misrepresentation that emphatical and legitimate contradiction which the voice of the people themselves always unequivocally affords. Accordingly on very short notices the usual preparatory measures were taken for a General Meeting at three o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday the 20th inst. Before the time appointed an immense concourse from the city and all parts of the county, with some from Delaware county, were already on the ground: and by half past three o'clock the whole Republican phalanx in all its renovated union and symmetry, consisting of not less TWELVE THOUSAND citizens, were at their posts. At four o'clock precisely,

WILLIAM JONES, Esquire, was called to the chair, and

JAMES WEST, appointed Secretary.

The purpose of the meeting having been briefly explained by the Chairman, the following address was read by *Charles Ingersoll*, and adopted, not only unanimously, but with the reiterated peals of the heartiest assent, as were all the resolutions which were read and severally put by the Chairman.

THE CITIZENS
OF THE
FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF
PENNSYLVANIA,
To their Fellow Citizens, the People of the United States.

FELLOW CITIZENS—

The friends of the United States and of the constituted authorities, residing within the first Congressional District of Pennsylvania, deeply impressed with the solemnity of the impending crisis, and trusting that their voice will not be without some effect among the American people, have met together for the purpose of comparing and collecting the general sentiment in this quarter of the Republic, and submit the following as the deliberate, unbiassed and unanimous result.

The story of American wrongs has been so often told, that the patriotic heart sickens at their disgusting recapitulation: Yet, as prefacing this last appeal, and for this, as we most anxiously hope, the last time, it may not be improper briefly to sketch an outline of that unparalleled, unmitigated, intolerable series of national outrages, against which, after too long an endurance, the only Republic extant is now at length about to exhibit the magnificent spectacle of an Empire of Freemen in the armour and attitude of defensive war—war for their sovereignty, their rights, their blessings—war for the reclamation of their property, their persons—war for their homes and domestic altars—a war stayed off till every possible effort at reconciliation has been put to beggary and shame—a war, to which not one distillation from the subtle, and anti-republican essences of ambition or aggrandizement has contributed, but which will flow pure from the rock of self defence—a war, without which, or the rights it is to be waged for, our sovereignty is servility, our commerce a colonial trade, our persons exposed to pillage, our property to piracy, our boasted institutions piles of theoretical ruins, and peace itself, that most desirable of all political enjoyments, a contumely and a curse.

From the tremendous concussions which have agitated Europe, since the eruption of the French revolution, the United States of America wisely kept aloof in an avowed, impartial, unexceptionable neutrality: not, as those who envy us alledge, fattening our soil with the disasters of the belligerents—for European wars and the British treaty restricted instead of expanding the immense commercial resources of the North American continent—but with characteristic enterprise, integrity & advantage pursuing the broad highways of emolument, & acquiring, in tranquility and forbearance, whatever was not withheld or wrested from us, by the great maritime powers. While havoc, famine and dilapidation were desolating the kingdoms of Europe, peace, plenty and prosperity, driven from their abodes in that region, fled over the troubled Atlantic, and set up the ark of their covenant in the delightful wildernesses of this modern land of promise.

With the exception of some commercial vexations in 1794 and 1797, the fortunes of the only republic seemed to be enhanced, as it were by an especial Providence to give irresistible splendor and attraction, to their contrast with the fallen fortunes of all those monarchies from which the original settlers of this country sprang. An advancement in population & affluence, an improvement in science and the arts, in agriculture & commerce, an exuberance of the products of the earth, and an accumulation of the profits of the sea, transcending all example, all calculation, all hope, distinguished the destinies of the American federation, and with certainty the lightest allotment of the evils inseparable from humanity that ever fell to any people, without foreign or domestic wars, without taxation, without any more of the pressure of government than was absolutely necessary to keep the bands of society together, the perfection of polity was accomplished, and the visions of philanthrophists realized, in the establishment, administration and astonishing success of our free, republican institutions.

While thus situated, fellow citizens, thus prospering among ourselves, the conflict in Europe persisted to rage with unabated violence; and, with a short, delusive interlude of cessation in 1802, its fury for nineteen years has never intermitted. It was always evident that commerce was originally one main object of the contest; and that it is now the only object appears to be conceded on all sides.

England, the first maritime power in the world, who opened the batteries of her attack with all the kingdoms of Europe for her allies, being uniformly defeated in the successive coalitions she subsidized, finally, in 1806, was left alone to maintain the unequal conflict against all her former auxiliaries; then or soon after subdued into the ranks and maintaining the quarrel, of her predominant enemy. At this conjuncture, foiled, oppressed and cast down, with a devouring navy to employ, a vast mass of manufactures to dispose of, jealous and apprehensive of our already well-grown greatness and commercial competition, the ministry of Great Britain resorted to one of those expedients of national desperation which like the dishonest contrivances of a delinquent individual, however, they may serve the moment, & however they may injure others, always recoil with their worst reaction on their authors—The ministry of Great Britain behind the rampart of a navy deemed impregnable, set the execrable examples of openly violating the laws of nations, and of trampling upon the immunities of neutrality, in order from its fragments to level with surer effect the blows she was aiming at victorious France. The voice of America, fellow citizens, was instantaneously & unanimously raised against this infamous inroad on the comity and usages of sovereign and neutral states. Not a town of any consequence on our seaboard, but applied to the federal government for redress, by solemn protest at least, if not more energetic opposition, against Britannic aggrievement. All parties, all classes were united; and the voice of the country descended by acclamation upon its rulers, demanding retribution.

Our English antagonists were engaged with a foe nowise slow to imitate their injustice. The conqueror of continental Europe, in the hour of overwhelming victory—in his exulting camp—amidst the crash of principalities and the groans of royal dissolution—the arbiter of dismantled thrones—at such a time—in such a scene—tracing as it were the fate of worlds with the point of the sabre on a drum-head in the field of battle—the conqueror of continental Europe wrote his fiat in answer to the fiat of English defiance—and in an instant, by the sorcery of power, the east and west, the north and south were locked up in their respective precincts, and forbidden on pain of confiscation, conflagration, annihilation, to appear on the accustomed domains of all nations.

We were the happiest people on the earth, fellow citizens. We were reposing in profound peace. We were governed by magistrates who loved peace; and who had not learned from protracted, abortive negociation, that negociation avails nothing with the gigantic wrongs, doers we had to deal with.—Our policy was neutral. Our system was pacific and precautionary.—We shut our own gates and denied ourselves the profits, to avoid the embarrassments, of foreign traffic. We negociated. When sent away, without satisfaction, our ministers returned, again and, again, to the inexplorable audiences of dominition.—Sullen silence or insulting menaces were the only answers we could obtain.

Soon after the murder of our countrymen in the Chesapeake was superadded to aggravate these injuries. The people rushed to arms.—But a pacific administration, still not despairing of pacific redress, stayed the noble ardor of the country—that country which is always full of noble ardor—whose first burst will rebuke its calumniators and scatter its enemies in prostration and discomfiture.

The right of search as it is called, another of the catalogue of our wrongs, interpolations of various other indefensible claims into the code of nations, together with the rigorous enforcement of certain absurd and antiquated, but revived pretensions, were also brought to bear upon our almost exhausted patience. By way of retaliation for which impositions from one belligerent, the other exercised the more distressing, though not more unjustifiable, authority of actually burning and destroying our ships and cargoes on the ocean.

During these aggressions, Fellow Citizens, the deadliest of all, that late refinement upon outrage, which was reserved for the page of modern history that foul, and indelible stain on the bearings of our independence, the right of impressment as it is also miscalled, has been systematically exercised on our persons; and not less than seven thousand American citizens, have been dragged from their occupations, their country, their families—scourged like malefactors—chained like galley slaves to the sides of British ships—exposed and slaughtered like pirates—and their wives and children subjected to an unnatural widowhood and orphanage, while these deplorable victims themselves, by force of British service and British law are compelled to become denizens of that monarchy, which prohibits expatriation, and assumes to itself jurisdiction to reclaim, wherever found, the fugitives from its impressments, its taxation and its ignominious hardships of existence. It would be easy, fellow citizens, to magnify this retrospect with many other indignities, and with the hedious details of those thus cursorily noticed. But the volume is already overcharged: and it is necessary to break off the narrative, which has been so often so much more strikingly unfolded, that its images must be engraven on the memory of every lover of his country. We might else carry your attention from the sea to the land; and arresting it first on the frontier, where the tomahawk of the savage is prompted to the butchery of our unconscious settlers by the infernal stratagems of ruthless England—direct it afterwards to the more civilized department of the union, to our cities, to our firesides, where the mode of attack again appears adapted to the scene of its operation, and a glozing, civilized British spy is found, like the Serpent in Eden, tempting our weakness with untried changes, and with all the wiliness of his nature beguiling us to our perdition.

But it is unnecessary, we repeat, to dwell on the host of excitement, which march before and beckon us to combat. We have borne more than ever any people did without an appeal to arms. We have left unattempted no striving for adjustment. We have expended all the stores of pacifications; and do not brandish the sword in the right hand, till the olive branch has withered in the left. We have deprecated long enough our unappeasable, insidious assailants, more dreadful, more pernicious in their ambush, than they could be in flagrant war. We have been more plundered of our treasure, while suing for accommodation, more abused, more injured, than we should have been in the same period of hostilities: and the current of our national character, of our national existence, fellow citizens, is gliding out of view, while we linger on the shore, vainly imploring the monsters of the deep to spare us.

The season for action has arrived—arrived, did we say? as our fruitless but laudable exertions to avert the last resort painfully prove, it arrived but too long ago: And placing our highest trust in that Being, who sometimes in his inscrutable providence afflicts the just, but oftener requites their constancy, we are likewise full of confidence in the people of these United States, in the righteousness of their cause, in the alacrity and energy of their aroused endeavors—We call to mind, fellow citizens the former struggle with Great Britain; when, without arms or ammunition, soldiers or officers, garrisons or ships, treasury or preparation of any kind, without even compact or government besides a common sympathy and common enthusiasm, the then thinly scattered people of the Atlantic coast, snuffing subjection on the gale at a distance, erected themselves like a column, on whose summit floated the banners of liberty, and alone on the defenceless beach, breasted the onset of vain-glorious invasion—undismayed at reverses unsubdued by privations—persevering, indefatigable, invincible—gradually advancing to discipline, organization and victory—achieving at the end of seven years of toil and alternate fortune, that independence we are now in our turn challenged to sustain. We call to mind, fellow citizens, the yet more distant annals, the discovery of our beloved country when Columbus the type of the American character, in a frail bark, with a disaffected and coward crew, bouyant on the trackless and unknown deserts of the western ocean, braving all dangers and doubts, more terrible than dangers, still kept due onward his undaunted course, till these shores appeared—the reward of resolution & a just confidence—these shores now covered with a populous, powerful and martial republic, whose citizens need nothing but to be resolved and justly confident in themselves to conquer, like Columbus, and the heroes of their own revolution the seemingly stupendous obstacles which infatuated injustice opposes to the accomplishment of their final and permanent emancipation.

Resolved, As the opinion of this meeting, that the only efficient remedy for the protracted and aggravated evils which afflict our country, will be found in a prompt vigorous open war; with that power whose edicts blockade the entire continent of Europe; save only such parts as require our instrumentality to circulate her products, and supply her naval and military expeditions—whose fleets not only plunder our lawful commerce upon the high seas, but blockade our own harbors, and violate the liberty of our citizens by the flagitious crime of impressment—Whose councils have the audacity to avow the crimes as their *permanent* system of maritime rights: and stimulate our citizens to acts of fraud and violence, in order to sustain her monstrous scheme of universal monopoly, piracy and smuggling.

A prompt and vigorous war! not for the limited and impoverished commerce of the moment, but for our imprescriptible rights of sovereignty the liberty of our citizens, and the future free circulation of the immeasely accumulating surplus products, of this free, fertile and extensive continent. These are legitimate and inevitable cases of war.

Resolved, That the liberal and impartial conduct of the executive of the United States, more especially in the military and naval appointments; instead of producing a candid and generous sacrifice of prejudice and party passions, on the altar of union, and shrine of our country; has from a virulent faction, the *fungus* of party opposition, been returned with a malevolent and traitorous conspiracy to withhold and impede the national resources—discourage and obstruct the recruiting service—traduce the character and motives of the government—and organize discontent, disaffection and criminal resistance.

Resolved, That without distinction of party, we respect and esteem all who are devoted to the true interest, honor and independence of our common country—who recognize the only principle upon which free government can exist; the will of the majority constitutionally pronounced, and who are ready to obey that will with zeal and fidelity.

Resolved, That judging from the firm, decisive tone of the executive message to congress, followed by co-operative measures of preparation for the "armour and attitude demanded by the crisis," (irresistably impelled by unceasing provocation)—the recent call of the house of representatives, with the manifest intention of assuming *that attitude*; and our own convictions of the immediate necessity of that awful appeal. We pledge to the constituted authorities of our country in the most solemn and deliberate manner all the faculties of body and mind and all the resources and means with which it has pleased the Almighty to endow us; to sustain to the last extremity the war they may cause to be waged against Great Britain, the most atrocious and obdurate aggressor.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to those members of congress, who have supported and shall continue to maintain, the rights, honor and independence of the nation, and in particular to that noble phalanx the Democratic Delegation of PENNSYLVANIA—the keystone of the splendid arch, whose base is the solid and we trust immutable rock of the union.

Resolved, That attested copies of the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded by the Chairman to the President of the United States,—the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of the Pennsylvania Delegation.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting signed by the Chairman and attested by the Secretary, be published in the democratic papers of this city, and that 5000 handbills of the same be struck off for circulation under the direction of the following committee, viz. Robert Patterson, John Binns, Charles J. Ingersol, James Carson, John L. Leib, William Duncan, William West, Frederick Hoeckly, A. Hargesheimer, Robert McMullen, Jacob Holgate, T. D. Anderson, Jacob Richards, and G. G. Leiper.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be and they are hereby given to the Chairman and Secretary.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Secretary of the sub-committee of Delegates (Charles Ingersol.)

WILLIAM JONES, Chairman.
JAMES WEST, Secretary.

RECAL OF ABSENTEES.

Sketch of debate on Mr Williams's resolution, in the House of Representatives of the United States, on Wednesday, May 13, 1812—From the National Intelligencer.

Mr. Williams said he rose to make a motion, the object of which was in itself so clear that he believed there was no necessity for illustrating it. There was but one objection that he was aware of, and that was that there was no precedent for it, but if that should be urged, he would reply that there never was before a crisis requiring it. The motion was—

"That the Speaker be directed to address a letter to each member of the House now absent, requesting his attendance prior to the 1st day of June.

Mr Grundy said the object of the motion no doubt was a correct one; he should the e fore vote for the motion as it now stood, but would prefer a modification of it. On what particular day it would be proper to have every member in his place could not be foreseen with certainty by one. To fix on a day, however, would be as much as to tell the members we do not want them earlier, and would put it out of our power to act prior to that day. But on the other hand, should we not be ready to act on that day is not pledging ourselves we will then act whether we are ready or not? It would be as well to request the attendance of members immediately, and then we shall not stand committed either to act on or before that day. He hoped there would not be an absent man on the occasion of voting the final measure; though he should consider such a vote as a completion of what was already begun, and not a determination of the course to be pursued, which question he considered as decided in the anterior measures already adopted.

Mr D R. Williams declined modifying his motion, because he considered the difference between its present language and that which it was proposed to give it more a difference in words than in fact. The passage of the resolution in its present form would not commit the House in any way; it was nothing but the expression of the House that the state of things required the presence of every member of the House here.

Mr. Little said that specifying the time in his opinion, would appear to be an indication that on that day some decisive measure would be before the house ——Most of the members could not reach this place on that day, and perhaps might not thereafter come, supposing it to be unnecessary, as the day would have passed to which they were summoned.

Mr. Key spoke in favor of fixing on a day certain.

Mr Grundy said the house ought not only to commit itself but should also have a regard to the public feeling which would be excited. Would not the passage of this resolution in its present form be an indication to our enemy? He wished not to see public expectation among our own people wound up and then relaxed as it would be if they should not act on the day fixed on. Wishing the absent members to be recalled on the ground of the general importance of the crisis, he wished not to fix a specific day for their return & therefore moved to strike out the 1st day of June and insert "*as soon as practicable.*"

Mr. Newton was satisfied with the motion in its present form, as it afforded no pledge to act on the day named. He was even ready to require and compel, instead of requesting the attendance of members. The absentees were intelligent men, & well knew that no final step could be taken on that day; because they were acquainted with the *usual* course of proceedings in this House, & must know that a deluge of *words* would be uttered on any decisive measure proposed before its adoption could take place.

The question on Mr. Grundy's motion was then decided in the negative.

For the amendment	42
Against it	44

Mr. Nelson regretted that he was compelled to differ from his friends on this question; but the view he had taken of the subject led him to suppose that it would be improper to adopt the resolution. What would be its effect, he asked. Either we do not want these gentlemen, said he, or we want them to such an extent that we cannot proceed without them. I take the first part of the proposition: that having given them leave of absence, we do not want them; because no member could have left his seat unconscious of the course which the deliberation of Congress would take. Suppose the members to whom your missal is addressed should disregard it. Must we send the Sergeant at Arms to spend weeks or months in compelling the attendance of those who ought not to have abandoned their seats?—Will gentlemen consent to a resolution which shall hold out the idea that their exertions could be paralysed by the absence of a few members? Those who were absent had taken on themselves the responsibility of their absence. Mr N. said he was content, reduced as was the number now present, to go on: he would not seek the aid of those who had turned their backs on the house in the present crisis. Let us go on, said he let us not hesitate nor wait for a particular day, but, when it is announced by the Executive that he is ready to strike. let the Legislative council of the nation direct the blow. The few who remain are competent to consummate the object; & the absence of others ought not to stop our progress. If the burthen be thrown on our shoulders, let us manfully bear it without calling on others to assist us.

Mr. D. R. Williams said he had no intention to hold the idea that the house could not act without the absentees; & it was impossible the resolution could have such an effect. What is the language of it. It is peremptory? Is there an idea conveyed in those words that the sergeant at arms is to go after these men because we cannot act without them? We are to presume that those who are absent have obtained leave from indispensable reasons. They have not gone home so very conscious of the result of our deliberations as the gentleman from V. supposes; for no man can say with certainty what will be the result. I for one, sir, said Mr. W. do feel and tremble for the result. Notwithstanding my anxiety that it shall be in one way, I am not conscious how it will be—although I hope in God it will be as I wish it. The people of the United States have been amused, betrayed, deceived into a belief that you dare not act with decision. The passage of the resolution will have one good effect—to stop our merchants in their mad career. It is a premonition to them, in addition to the embargo, of the course about to be taken. When we assume a determined attitude there is no man who would wish to be absent. This resolution is only declaratory of what is the sense of the house.

I wish to screen the administration and the republicans in congress from the malicious censure which would be thrown upon us if we act decisively without previous notice.——It would in such case be said it was a sectional course; that some members have gone home and you have seized the opportunity of their absence. Adopt this and we are placed on fair ground. It will also relieve the house from the responsibility of the absence of its members, and places it, where it ought to rest, on the absentees, some of whom I know have gone home under the impression that, we shall not take a decisive course. I tell the gentleman from Virginia, and I tell the nation, that the pledge that on the removal of the embargo we will go to war, I will redeem, if there be but a bare quorum present—I for one will act, whether the absentees return or not—but I had rather they should be present and therefore I would warn them here.

Mr. Wright said it was fair that every member should have notice that his attendance was wished, and they would doubtless generally return, as the honorable mover of the resolution himself had done—he had obtained leave of absence for the session, but had returned as soon as he possibly could dispatch the urgent concerns which had called him home. Our affairs had obtained a crisis in which every man ought to be at his post. I hope they will have notice, and that the opposition will not be suffered to have it in their power to say we could not obtain a declaration of war until a certain portion of the members had gone home. Can we be afaid of telling our enemy of our intentions? Have we not levied 25,000 regulars, many volunteers, &c, &c. and could these indications be mistaken? No, sir, I hope that on the 4th day of June, the day on which king George the Third was born, we shall act. The people are tired of suspence. If we have but a bare quorum the gentleman from Virginia is prepared to act when the Executive is ready; and, if he be not ready, I would strike before we are ready; because, like a new married couple going to house keeping, I believe we should prepare more necessaries in one week after we begin, than in four weeks before.

Mr. Rhea wished some more compulsory mode adopted of recalling the absentees. If sense of their own duty, the declarations of their friends and the admonitions of their constituents, has not been sufficient to induce their return, he doubted the efficacy of this notice.—Every gentleman could write to his friends which would have the same effect—even this discussien would be ample notice. He was willing to *require* their attendance, but did not care about *requesting* it.

Mr. Roberts said, the call of the House met his perfect approbation; but in its present form he should be constrained to vote against it. He was not afraid that it would be considered a pledge to act on a certain day; but that members near home, after it was passed, would take the opportunity of the interval to visit their homes and leave the house without a quorum. He therefore moved to amend the resolution so as *to request the attendance of the members* FORTHWITH.

This motion was agreed to, ayes 47.

After some objections by Mr. Stanford to the phraseology of the resolution—

It was passed without a division, there not being more perhaps than five dissenting voices.

NEW YORK, May 20.

ARRIVAL OF THE HORNET.

VERY LATE FROM FRANCE.

Last evening arrived at this port the U. States sloop of war Hornet, capt Lawrence, in 21 days from Cherburgh, with dispatches from Mr. Barlow, our Minister in France, for government.

Capt. Lawrence left Paris on the 21st of April, and Cherburgh on the 27th, and has politely favoured the editors of the Mercantile Advertiser with a file of Paris papers to