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BRITISH MANIFESTO vs. AMERICA.

LONDON, Jan 10.

DECLARATION.

The earnest endeavors of the prince regent to preserve the relations of peace and amity with the U. States having unfortunately failed, his royal highness, acting in the name and on the behalf of his majesty, deems it proper publicly to declare the causes and origin of the war in which the government of the U. States has compelled him to engage.

No desire of conquest, or other ordinary motive of aggression, has been, or can be with any color of reason, imputed to Great Britain; that her commercial interests were on this side of peace, if war could have been avoided, without the sacrifice of her maritime rights, or, without an injurious submission to France, is a truth which the American gov. will not deny.

His Royal highness does not however mean to rest on the favorable presumption, to which he is entitled. He is prepared by an exposition of the circumstances, which have led to the present war, to show that G. B. has throughout acted towards the U. S. of America, with a spirit of forbearance, and conciliation; and to demonstrate the inadmissable nature of those pretensions, which have at length unhappily involved the two countries in war.

(Here the declaration enters into an historical account of the Berlin and Milan decrees, and other hostile measures of France towards neutrals; the retaliatory Orders in Council of G. Britain; the consequent Embargo, Non intercourse and Non importation Acts of the American Congress, and the different diplomatic representations and explanations which have taken place on those subject between Great Britain and America, the particulars of all which have been long before the public. The declaration then continues:)

The American Government, before they received intimation of the course adopted by the British Government, had in fact proceeded to the extreme measure of declaring war, and issuing "Letters of Marque," notwithstanding they were previously in possession of the French Minister of Foreign affairs' letter of the 12th of March 1812, promulgating anew the Berlin and Milan Decrees, as fundamental laws of the French Empire, under the false and extravagant pretext, that the monstrous principles therein contain'd were to be found in the Treaty of Utrecht, and were therefore binding upon all states. From the penalties of this code no nation was to be exempt, which did not accept it, not only as the rule of its own conduct, but as a law, the observance of which, it was also required to enforce upon G. Britain.

In a manifesto accompanying their declaration of hostilities, in addition to the former complaints against the orders in council, a long list of grievances was brought forward; some trivial in themselves, others which had been mutually adjusted, but none of them such as were ever before alledged by the American Gov. to be grounds for war.—As if to throw additional obstacles in the way of peace, the American Congress at the same time passed a law, prohibiting all intercourse with G. B of such a tenor, as deprived the Executive Government, according to the President's own construction of that act, of all power of restoring the relations of friendly intercourse between the two states, so far at least as concerned their commercial intercourse, until Congress should re-assemble.

The President of the United States has, it is true, since proposed to Great Britain an armistice; not, however, on the admission that the cause of war hitherto relied on was removed; but on condition that G. Britain, as a preliminary step, should do away a cause of war, now brought forward as such for the first time; namely, that she should abandon the exercise of her undoubted right of search, to take from American merchant vessels British seamen, the natural born subjects of his majesty; and this concession was required upon the mere assurance that laws would be enacted by the Legislature of the United States, to prevent such seamen from entering into their service; but independent of the objection to an exclusive reliance on a foreign state, for the conservation of so vital an interest, no explanation was, or could be afforded by the agent who was charged with the overture, either as to the main principles upon which such laws were to be founded, or as to the provisions which it was proposed they should contain. This proposition having been objected to, a second proposal was made, again offering an armistice, provided the British government would secretly stipulate to renounce the the exercise of this right in a treaty of peace.—An immediate and formal abandonment of its exercise as preliminary to a cessation of hostilities, was not demanded; but his royal highness the Prince Regent was required, in the name and on the behalf of his majesty, secretly to abandon what the former overture had proposed to him publicly to concede.

This most offensive proposition was also rejected, being accompanied as the former had been by other demands of most exceptionable nature, and especially of indemnity for all American vessels detained and condemned under the orders in council, or under what were termed illegal blockades—a compliance with demands, exclusive of all other objections, would have amounted to an absolute surrender of the rights on which those orders and blockades were founded. Had the American government been sincere in representing the orders in council, as the only subject of difference between Great Britain and the U States, calculated to lead to hostilities; it might have been expected, so soon as the revocation of those orders had been officially made known to them, that they would have spontaneously recalled their "letters of marque," and manifested a disposition immediately to restore the relations of peace and amity between the two powers. But the conduct of the government of the U. S. by no means corresponded with such reasonable expectations.—The order in council of the 23d June being officially communicated to America, the government of the United States saw nothing in the repeal of the orders in council, which should of itself restore peace, unless G. Britain were prepared in the first instance, substantially to relinquish the right of impressing her own seamen, when found on board American merchant ships. The proposal of an armistice, and of a simultaneous repeal of the respective measures on both sides, subsequently made by the commanding officer of his majesty's naval forces on the American coast, were received in the same hostile spirit by the government of the U. S. The suspension of the practice of impressment was insisted upon in the correspondence which passed on that occasion, as a necessary preliminary to a cessation of hostilities.—Negociation, it was stated, might take place without any suspension of the exercise of this right; and also without any armistice being concluded; but Great Britain was required previously to agree, without any knowledge of the adequacy, of the system which could be substituted, to negociate upon the basis of accepting the legislative regulations of a foreign state, as the sole equivalent for the exercise of a right, which she has felt to be essential to the support of her maritime power.

If America, by demanding this preliminary concession, intends to deny the validity of that right, in that denial Great Britain cannot acquiesce; nor will she give countenance to such a pretension, by acceding to its suspension, much less to its abandonment, as a basis on which to treat. If the American Government has devised, or conceives it can devise, regulations which may safely be accepted by G. Britain, as a substitute for the exercise of the right in question, it is for them to bring forward such a plan for consideration.—The British government has never attempted to exclude this question from amongst those on which the two States might have to negotiate; it has, on the contrary, uniformly professed its readiness to receive and discuss any proposition on this subject, coming from the American government; it has never asserted any exclusive right, as the impressment of British seamen from American vessels, which it was not prepared to acknowledge as appertaining equally to the Government of the U. S. with respect to American seamen when found on board British merchant ships: But it cannot by acceding to such a basis in the first instance, either assume or admit that to be practicable, which, when attempted on former occasions, has always been found to be attended with great difficulties; such difficulties as the British commissioners in 1806 expressly declared, after an attentive consideration of the suggestions brought forward by the commissioners on the part of America, they were unable to surmount.

Whilst the proposition, transmitted thro' the British Admiral, was pending in America, another communication on the subject of an armistice was unofficially made to the British government in this country. The agent, from whom this proposition was received, acknowledged that he did not consider, that he had any authority himself to sign an agreement on the part of the government. It was obvious that any stipulations entered into, in consequence of this overture, would have been binding on the British government, whilst the government of the United States would have been free to refuse or accept them, according to the circumstances of the moment. This proposition was therefore necessarily declined.

After this exposition of the circumstances which preceded, and which have followed the Declaration of War by the U. States, his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, acting in the name and on behalf of his majesty, feels himself called upon to declare the leading principles, by which the conduct of G. Britain has been regulated in the transactions connected with these discussions.

His royal highness can never acknowledge any blockade whatsoever to be illegal which has been duly notified, & is supported by an adequate force, merely upon the ground of its extent, or because the ports, or coasts blockaded are not at the same time invested by land. His royal highness can never admit that neutral trade with G Britain can be constituted a public crime, the commission of which can expose the ships of any power whatever to be denationalized. His royal highness can never admit that G. Britain can be debarred of its rights of just and necessary retaliation, through the fear of eventually affecting the interest of a neutral. His royal highness can never admit that in the exercise of the undoubted and hitherto undisputed right of searching neutral merchant vessels in time of war, for the impressment of British seamen, when found there in, can be deemed any violation of a neutral flag. Neither can he admit that the taking such seamen from on board such vessels, can be considered by any neutral state as a hostile measure, or a justifiable cause of war.

There is no right more clearly established than the right which a sovereign has to the allegiance of his subjects, more especially in time of war.—Their allegiance is no optional duty, which they can decline, and resume at pleasure. It is a call which they are bound to obey; it began with their birth, and can only terminate with their existence. If a similarity of language and manners may make the exercise of this right more liable to partial mistakes, and occasional abuse, when practised towards vessels of the U. States, the same circumstances make it also a right, with the exercise of which in regard to such vessels, it is more difficult to dispense. But if, to this practice of the U. States to harbor British seamen, be added their assumed right to transfer the allegiance of British subjects, & thus to cancel the jurisdiction of their legitimate sovereign, by acts of naturalization and certificates of citizenship, which they pretend to be as valid out of their own territory, as within it, it is obvious that to abandon this ancient right of G. Britain, & to admit these several pretensions of the U. States, would be to expose to danger the very foundation of our maritime strength.

Without entering minutely into the other topics, which have been brought forward by the government of the U. States, it may be proper to remark, that whatever the declaration of the United States may have asserted, G. Britain never did demand, that they should force British manufactures into France; and she formally declared her willingness entirely to forego, or modify, in concert with the U. States, the system, by which a commercial intercourse with the enemy had been allowed under the protection of licenses; provided the U. States would act towards her, and towards France, with real impartiality. The government of America, if the differences between States are not interminable, has as little right to notice the affair of the Chesapeake. The aggression, in this instance, on the part of a British officer, was acknowledged, his conduct was disapproved, and a reparation was regularly tendered by Mr Foster on the part of his majesty, and accepted by the government of the U. States. It is not less unwarranted in its allusion to the mission of Mr. Henry; a mission undertaken without the authority, or even knowledge, of his majesty's government, and which Mr. Foster was authorised formally and officially to disavow. The charge of exciting the Indians to offensive measures against the United States, is equally void of foundation. Before the war began, a policy the most opposite had been uniformly pursued, and proof of this was tendered by Mr. Foster to the American government. Such are the causes of war which have been put forward by the Government of the United States. But the real origin of the present contest will be found in that spirit which has long unhappily actuated the councils of the U. S; their marked partiality in palliating and assisting the aggressive tyranny of France; their systematic endeavors to inflame their people against the conduct of Spain, the intimate ally of Great Britain; and their unworthy desertion of the cause of other neutral nations.—It is through the prevalence of such councils that America has been associated in policy with France, and committed in war against G. Britain.

And under what conduct on the part of France has the government of the U. States thus lent itself to the enemy? The contemptuous violation of the Commercial Treaty of the year 1800 between France and the U. States; the treacherous seizure of all American vessels and cargoes in all harbors subject to the control of the French arms; the tyrannical principles of the Berlin and Milan Decrees, and the confiscations under them; the subsequent condemnation under the Rambouilet decree, antedated or concealed to render it the more effectual; the French commercial regulations which render the traffic of the U. States with France almost illusory; the burning of their merchant ships at sea, long after the alledged repeal of the French decrees—all these acts of violence on the part of France produce from the government of the United States only such complaints as end in acquiescence and submission, or are accompanied by suggestions for enabling France to give the semblance of a legal form to her usurpations, by converting them into municipal regulations.

This disposition of the government of the U. States—this complete subserviency to the ruler of France—this hostile temper towards G. Britain, are evident in almost every page of the official correspondence of the American with the French government. Against this course of conduct, the real cause of the present war, the Prince Regent solemnly protests. Whilst contending against France, in defence not only of the liberties of G. Britain, but of the world, his Royal Highness was entitled to look for a far distant result. From their common origin—from their common interests—from the professed principles of freedom and independence, the U. States were the last power, in which G. Britain could have expected to find a willing instrument and abettor of French tyranny. Disappointed in this his just expectation, the Prince Regent will still pursue the policy, which the British government has so long and invariably maintained, in repelling injustice, & in supporting the general rights of nations; and, under the favor of Providence, relying on the justice of her cause, and the tried loyalty and firmness of the British nation, his royal highness confidently looks forward to a successful issue to the contest, in which he has thus been compelled most reluctantly to engage.

Westminster, January 9, 1813.

PITTSBURGH, FEB. 25.

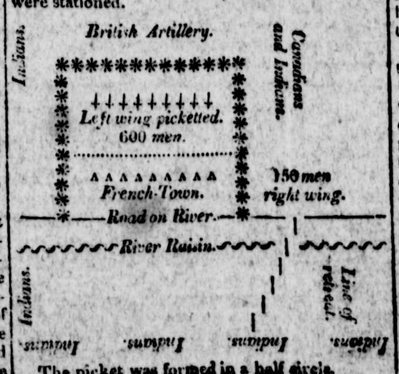
GENERAL WINCHESTER'S ARMY.

Since the publication of the last Mercury a number of the brave fellows who were made prisoners at the battle of Frenchtown, on the 22d ult. under Gen. Winchester, have passed through this place on their way to Kentucky.——They were paroled at Fort George, not to serve during the war against his Britannic majesty, *or his allies*, unless regularly exchanged. They came down the Canadian side from Malden to Fort George, crossed over to Niagara, and proceeded direct to Pittsburg. They have since gone on by water for Kentucky. The best wishes of their country go along with them.

These men are generally of the first respectability and intelligence, the flower of Kentucky, and they reflect the highest honor on the State from which they came, and on their country,—The easy gracefulness of manners, the manly, independence of sentiment, and the ardent love of country which they have displayed, under all the reverses of fortune, entitle them to the first place in the hearts of their countrymen.—Notwithstanding the unparalelled fatigues they have undergone; in a dreary wilderness; the dangers to which they have been exposed; and the numerous privations they have suffered, still are their noble spirits unbroken—*not a murmur has escaped their lips*—no imbecile apprehensions are entertained by them for the safety of their brethren in arms—but their honest hearts spring forward, with elastic hope, that their wrongs will be avenged, & the day of retribution is at hand.

The editor has had the pleasure of conversing with a number of these gentlemen. He therefore offers this honest tribute to their merit.——From this source he lays the following facts before his readers.

The advance of Gen. Winchester to the River Raisin, or rather Frenchtown, arose from the ardent solicitation of the inhabitants of that place, and was undertaken with the approbation and at the desire of the whole army. The inhabitants of the town, being citizens of the U. States, solicited the protection of Gen. Winchester from the violence and outrages of the hordes of savages with which they were surrounded, and to whose brutalities they were daily exposed. The Wednesday succeeding the march of Gen. Winchester for Frenchtown, had been fixed on by these *allies of Britain*, for the burning of the town and the butchery of its inhabitants. Gen. Winchester, yielding to the calls of humanity and desirous of protecting the *American* citizens from savage violence, advanced to their relief. The expedition under Col. Lewis was as is known completely successful, and put our troops in possession of the town. On the 20th, Gen. Winchester, concentrated his troops amounting to 750 men, at Frenchtown, six hundred of which were posted in the pickets. The following rough diagram will give some idea of the manner in which they were stationed.



The picket was formed in a half circle.

The attack commenced on the right wing on the morning of the 22d at beating of the revillie. Our troops were immediately ready for the reception of the enemy. Scarcely a minute had elapsed from the firing of the alarm till the first discharge. The right wing sustained the shock for about 20 minutes when overpowered by numbers they retreated across the River, & fell in with a large body of the Indians stationed in the rear and were either cut off or taken prisoners. Two companies of 50 men each from the pickets sallied out and unfortunately joined the retreating party. The fate of the whole is uncertain, but our principal loss was in this quarter.

The left wing, with Spartan valor, maintained their ground within the pickets. The enemy's regulars made three different charges upon them. The shocks were received with distinguished coolness and intrepidity, and the enemy were always repulsed. Out of 400 regulars of the enemy 150 were slain. We had 5 killed within the pickets and about 40 wounded. Gen. Winchester and Col. Lewis had been taken prisoners early in the action, in attempting to rally the retreating party. About 11 o'clock, Gen. W. sent in a flag informing that he had capitulated for the troops. The firing had in a great measure ceased at this time; and when the flag came in, so confident were the men of their success that they merely expected it as a proffer for a cessation of arms. Thus this brave & little band maintained this tremendous action which lasted from day break till 11 o'clock, with their honour untarnished.——It ought not, however, to be understood as attaching any blame to Gen. Winchester for entering into the capitulation. Opposed by the overwhelming force of the enemy, these brave fellows must have otherwise fallen a sacrifice.

The British force consisted of about 2,000 including Indians.——In the rear were stationed a large body of Indians with a design to cut off a retreat, should it be attempted, but the left wing bravely kept their ground, and thus obtained that security which their valor deserved.

We come now to relate a part of the tragical story, at which every honorable and feeling heart must recoil, and which demands the prompt attention of government. After the capitulation, the American commanding officer remonstrated with the British officer on the necessity of protecting the wounded prisoners from the fury of the savages. The officer pledged himself to attend to it, and that they should be removed on the following day. But they were left without the promised protection; and on the morning of the 23d, the savage allies of a *christian* king, *stripped and murdered all of them who were unable to march!*—If the vengeance of our country can sleep after such an act as this, then indeed may we weep over the ruins of the republic!

The fate of Capt. Hart, one of the wounded, is peculiarly distressing.——This gentleman had received a flesh wound in the knee; & had greatly signalized himself by his undaunted bravery. After the capitulation a British officer, a Captain Elliot, who had been a classmate with him at Princeton College, waited on Captain Hart, and, unsolicited, promised him his protection, declaring that the next morning, he would have him taken to his own house at Malden, where he should remain until his recovery. But Elliot broke his promise, and left him to his fate! On the next day a band of savages came into the house where he lay, & ruthlessly tore him from his bed. A brother officer caught him in his arms and carried him to another apartment. Here he was again assailed by the monsters. At length he bargained with one of them, and gave him a considerable sum of money to have himself taken to Malden. They set off, and after travelling about 4 or 5 miles, were met by a fresh band of those *hell hounds*; who shot the captain on his horse & tomahawked and scalped him!—Such are the allies of his Britannic majesty—and such the righteousness of his cause!

The prisoners were generally stripped of their cloathing, rifled of their cash, and the swords of the officers given to the savages, notwithstanding a promise that the swords should be returned to them again at Malden; and, as if all honorable warfare must cease, men, whose education, talents, and general respectability ought to have entitled them to respect, were treated by the enemy with all that haughty superciliousness which characterises ignoble minds.

Gen. Winchester and the field officers are, it is supposed, ordered on to Quebec.

Several interesting incidents, serving to display the bravery and conduct of the troops deserve to be noticed. On their march from fort Defiance to the Rapids, the horses were worn down and nearly famished for want of forage. The men themselves were destitute of many articles of the first necessity. Yet these circumstances did not in the least degree damp the ardor and the spirit of the troops. When the horses were no longer able to draw, these gallant fellows hitched themselves to the sleds, and in this manner, with the greatest cheerfulness and alacrity, conveyed their baggage a distance of upwards of sixty miles, through frost and snow—thus manifesting an intrepidity of character which rivals that of Greece or Rome.

In the battle of the 18th, on the first onset the savages raised their accustomed and horrd yell.—But the noise was drowned in the returning shouts of the brave assailants. They advanced boldly to the charge & drove the enemy in all directions. On the first, sixteen of the savages were distinctly seen to fall.

In the battle of the 22d, the British advanced in platoons to charge the pickets, keeping up a street fire. The men within the pickets, with the most determined bravery & presence of mind, reserved their fire until the enemy advanced with point blank shot. They then opened a cross fire upon the enemy their pieces well levelled—& thus they mowed down his ranks in such a manner, as rendered all his efforts vain, and compelled him to retire. Well may the enemy acknowledge, that he had a *dear bought* victory.

We have said that the British officers treated their prisoners with haughty superciliousness.—We might have gone farther, perhaps and said with provoking insolence. When an American officer urged the necessity of having the wounded put under the care of suitable surgeons—he was tauntingly answered, "*the Indians are excellent doctors!*"—"Yes" replied the American with spirit, "you have proved it on the morning of the 23d," alluding to the massacre of the wounded.

Although our brave men were captives and disarmed, their spirits were unbroken. When offered the parole, for their signatures, they demanded to know who "*were his majesty's allies*"—Even British effronery was staggered at the pertinency of the enquiry. The "compunctious visitings of nature" deterred them from acknowledging the *savages*, and they eluded a direct reply, by answering "*his majesty's allies are known!*"—Yes! truly are they known. They are recorded in letters of blood!

Why are these disclosures made! To show the people of the U. S. the merciless enemy they have to contend with. To awaken the dormant spirit of the nation. To steel their hearts and nerve their arms, for an awful display of that retribution which the cruelties of our unrelenting enemy so justly entitle him to.—

We close this article with the following statement furnished us by a gentleman in the staff department, who was an eye witness to the massacre of the wounded.

"On the morning of the 22d of Jan. at revelie beating, the detachment under gen. Winchester, at the river Raisin were attacked by a party of British and Indians. The officers and men were ready at their posts to receive them, inasmuch as they were informed the preceding evening an attach would be made. The detachment consisted of about 750 men, of whom about 500 were protected by a temporary breast work, composed of rails and garden pailings.——The remainder who had joined us the day preceding the action, were encamped on the right, somewhat detached, and unprotected by any kind of shelter. The attack was made with great violence on the troops, without the shelter, who maintained their ground about 15 minutes, when an order was given to retreat within the picqueting. In the confusion that order was mistaken for a general retreat.—On their retreat they were attacked by a large body of Indians, who had been stationed on our rear in an adjacent wood, previous to the attack. The retreating party were thrown into considerable confusion. Gen Winchester, cols. Lewis and Allen, pursued and endeavored to rally them, which proved ineffectual. The party finding a retreat was in vain, resolved to sell their lives at the dearest rate, and fired until the last. Few of them arrived safe at camp.—Gen Winchester and aid, and his son and col. Lewis, were taken prisoners. The party who remained in the breast work, kept up constant and warm fire, until eleven o'clock, when a flag was brought in by gen. Winchester's aid, informing us, he had surrendered us prisoners of war, and requested our compliance.—A surrender took place, and the men immediately marched off. About 450 capitulated. The wounded under the care of Drs. Todd and Bowers, the two surviving surgeons, *with a promise of protection from the commanding officer col Procter*, and that the wounded should be carried on the next morning in sleds to Malden. *On the morning of the 23d, about sun rise, a large body of Indians came, plundered the wounded of their cloathing, and every thing of value, & tomahawked and scalped all that were unable to march*; among whom were some valuable officers, particularly capt Hickman.—The remainder were taken prisoners, as they termed it, and many are either killed or are still in their possession. Our loss is estimated at about 200* killed. Kentucky has lost many of her choicest sons, particularly col. Allen. Among the officers, we recollect capt. Simpson, (a member of congress) capts, Mead, Edwards, Price, and M'Cracken—and many very valuable subalterns. The loss of officers was considerable. The loss of enemy could not be ascertained. They acknowledge the victory a dear one. Their loss of regulars of the 91st regiment, was estimated at 150, in making three unsuccessful charges. The force of the enemy was estimated by many of the British officers at 2000 and several assured me, their loss exceeded ours. During the whole of the action, a heavy cannonade was kept up by six pieces of artillery. Great preparations are making at Malden for Harrison's reception. Every male from 16 to 60 is drafted, and many were on their march to Malden. Indians are collecting from every quarter. It is supposed a force cannot be collected at Malden to exceed 4000. The Queen Charlottee, Lady Mary, and one other vessel, is in the harbor, and they are preparing to build several other vessels in lake Erie, the ensuing spring. Many ship carpenters arrived at Malden, and more were expected.

Mercury.

* We have since heard of the arrival of a number of the left wing at Fort Winchester, (Defiance) and at gen. Harrison's head quarters. The actual loss in killed and MURDERED does not perhaps exceed one hundred.

[*Omissions of last week.*]

DEATH OF JOEL BARLOW.

Bordeaux, Jan. 19, 1813.

"I have already written you several times by this opportunity, and my principal object in addressing you at this moment, is to inform you, that Mr. *Barlow*, American Minister at the Court of France, died on the 26th Dec. at Zarnaw or Zarnawtz, in Poland, on his return from Wilna. The unfortunate and unexpected event, will of course put a period to the negociation with this government, and leave American affairs in an awkward situation and a distressing state of suspence, until a new minister can come out to this country, if the communications from the legation here should render such an embassy expedient. I am unable to give you a correct opinion of the progress which Mr. Barlow had made in his negociation, but it was generally believed that he was on the point of concluding an advantageous treaty, which would have bro't nearly the whole of the claims of the American government to a satisfactory issue. I hope in that event, that the Emperor will authorise Mr Serurier to conclude the treaty at Washington. The death of Mr. Barlow proves the necessity of the American Minister's having a Secretary of Legation, capable of succeeding him, and assuming his functions in case of accident." *Patriot.*

The Senate of the U. States have rejected the bill sent up by the House of Representatives, to prohibit the employment of foreign seamen in vessels of the United States, by a majority of *one* vote; every member of the federal party in that body, as well as the other opposition members, having voted against it. The rejection of the bill, it will be observed is ascribable to the accidental absence of several members from the Senate Chamber, at the moment the question was taken. It is now demonstrated, that the federal party, contrary to their repeated and almost vociferous professions, are not the real friends of peace, but are anxious for a continuance of war; because they have rejected a measure, the only effect of which, if it had any, must have been to produce peace with our enemy, by giving her a pretence for abandoning her usurpations. With this light for their guide, the People will surely hereafter correctly appreciate the value of federal professions and of federal clamor. *Nat. Intel.*