

My fellow citizens of the Senate,

and of the House of Representatives,

Nothing could contribute more to my satisfaction at this time and on this occasion, than to be justified from the posture of our foreign relations, in offering to you my congratulations on the adjustment of all our differences with the belligerents of Europe. But unhappily for our beloved country, it would seem as if a participation in the devastations of war, must be its portion. And however reluctant we may be to engage in hostility with any power, it will be a subject of consolation to the patriot and the soldier, amidst the din of arms, to reflect, that such a state of things was avoided, as long as it could be, consistently with the honour and the rights of the nation. Our rulers have left no honourable effort unemployed to arrive at a friendly and sincere adjustment of every existing difference with both Great-Britain and

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desirable end, the former of these powers has receded
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difficulties which pre-existed - negotiation with her, has become a formal nullity and a magnanimous offer of amity, the object of her derision and contempt. France, indeed, has revoked her decrees which so injuriously affected our commerce; but their revocation is unaccompanied with an offer of retribution for the unexampled pillage of our property committed under them. She ~~has~~ also vexed our commerce by municipal restrictions, unfavourable to a fair and ^{an} amicable intercourse.

Under this aspect of our public affairs, it behoves us to be prepared for such a crisis, as may ultimately occur. An union of sentiment among ourselves — a determined support of the constituted authorities of the general government, in such measures as they may adopt for the general security — a patriotic resignation to the privations which a state of hostility may produce — a ^{calmly} bent on taciturn

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and will undoubtedly be counted among the last
in surrendering them. In proportion as she prizes the
blessings of a virtuous and republican self-government,
ought she to be firm and resolute in her endeavours
to preserve it. Small and unimportant as she may
be, as a member of the union, I trust that, in the
terrible hour of war, her ~~citizens~~ would be as effectual
guardians of the public liberty as those of any part
of ~~the union~~ our country. In conflicts more awful
than may again occur, her Blues received upon the
"embattled plain", the grateful plaudits of an expiring
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There are several subjects, to which as the
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Message of the President of the 5th of November last,
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As the correspondence accompanying the Message of the President of the 5th of November last, leaves us without hopes of a returning sense of justice on the part of one of the belligerents, I submit to you the immediate propriety of an amendment of our militia laws. The act, entitled, "an act to establish an uniform militia throughout this state," anterior to the last session of

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of the legislature, proposed sufficiency of time to keep the militia embodied and provided the means of answering any call, which, from the urgency of the times, the general government might make. But by a supplement to this act, passed at the last session, absolving the absentees from fines, the whole of our militia became effectively disbanded and destroyed. Should your attention not be directed to the revision of these laws, during the present session, may not the most imperious of circumstances, compel the executive authority, at a great public expense, to call you together, before the close of the present year, for this important purpose? — We ought, as an efficient member of the Union, as a means of our own safety, and as a body politic, which is always resolved to defend its rights against every violation, to maintain a well disciplined and a respectable militia. On this subject too much apathy cannot be employed as the hour is not known, when we may for the common defense

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By the 11th section of the 1st article of
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