











With this evidence of hostile inflexibility in tramping on rights which no Independent Nation can relinquish, Congress will feel the duty of putting the United States up an arm and an attitude demanded by the crisis, and corresponding with the national spirit and expectations.

I recommend accordingly that adequate provision be made for fitting the ranks and prolonging the enlistments of the regular troops; for an auxiliary force, to be engaged for a limited term; for the acceptance of volunteer corps, whose patriotic ardor may court a participation in urgent services; for detachments as they may be wanted, of other portions of the militia; and for such a preparation of the great body, as will proportion its usefulness to its intrinsic capacities. Nor can the occasion fail to remain you of the importance of those military seminaries which in every event will from a valuable and frugal part of our military establishment.

The manufacture of cannon and small arms has proceeded with due success, and the stock and resources of all the necessary munitions are adequate to emergencies. It will not be ineffectual, however, for Congress to authorize an enlargement of them.

Your attention will of course be drawn to such provisions, on the subject of our naval forces, as may be required for the services to which it may be best adapted. I submit to Congress the seasonableness also of an authority to augment the stock of such materials as are imperishable in their nature, of any not at once obtainable.

In contemplating the scenes which distinguish this momentous Epoch, and estimating their claims to our attention, it is impossible to overlook those States which surround and appertain the great communities which occupy the southern portion of our own hemisphere, and extend into our neighbourhood. An enlarged philanthropy, and an enlightened forecast, concur in imposing on the National Councils an obligation to take a deep interest in their destinies; to cherish reciprocal sentiments of good will; to regard the progress of events; and not to be unprepared for whatever order of things may be ultimately established.

Under another aspect of our situation the early attention of Congress will be due to the expediency of further guards against evasions and infractions of our commercial laws. The practice of smuggling, which is odious every where, and particularly criminal in free governments, where the laws being made for all for the good of all, a fraud is committed on every individual as well as on the state, attains its utmost guilt, when it blends, with a pursuit of ignominious gain a treacherous subservience in the transgressors, to a foreign policy adverse to that of their own country. It is then that the virtuous indignation of the people should be enabled to manifest itself, through the regular administrations of the most competent laws.

To secure greater respect to our mercantile flag, and to the honest interest which it covers: it is expedient also, that it be made punishable to our citizens, to accept licenses from foreign governments, for a trade unlawfully interdicted by them to other American citizens; or to trade under false colours or papers of any sort.

A prohibition is equally called for, against the acceptance, by our citizens, of special licenses to be used in the trade with the United States; and against the admission into particular ports of the U. States, of vessels from foreign countries, authorised to trade with particular ports only.

Although other subjects will press more immediately on your deliberations, a portion of them cannot but be well bestowed, on the just and sound policy of securing to our manufactures the success they have attained, and are still attaining, in some degree, under the impulse of causes not permanent, and to our navigation, the fair extent of which is at present straitened by the unequal regulations of foreign government.

Besides the reasonableness of saving our manufactures from sacrifices which a change of circumstances might bring on them, the national interest requires, that with respect to such articles at least as belong to our defence, and our primary wants, we should not be left in unnecessary dependence, on external supplies. And whilst foreign governments adhere to the existing discriminations in their ports against our navigation, and an equality or lesser discrimination is enjoyed by their navigation, in our ports, the effect cannot be mistaken, because it has been seriously felt by our shipping interests; and in proportion as this takes place, the advantages of an independent conveyance of our products to foreign markets, and of a growing body of mariners, trained by their occupations for the service of their country in times of danger, must be diminished.

The receipts into the treasury, during the year ending on the thirtieth of September last, have exceeded thirteen millions and a half of dollars, and have enabled us to defray the current expenses, including the interest on the public debt, and to reimburse more than five millions of dollars of the principal, without recurring to the loan authorized by the act of the last session. The temporary loan obtained in the latter end of the year one thousand eight hundred and ten, has also been reimbursed, and is not included in that amount.

Who decrease of revenue, arising from the situation of our commerce and the extraordinary expenses which have and may become necessary, must be taken into view, in making commensurate provisions for the ensuing year. And I recommend to your consideration the propriety of ensuring a sufficiency of annual revenue, at least to defray the ordinary expenses of government, and to pay the interest on the public debt, including that on new loans which may be authorized.

I cannot close this communication without expressing my deep sense of the crisis in which you are assembled, my confidence in a wise and honourable result to your deliberations, and assurance of the faithful zeal with which my co-operating duties will be discharged: In looking, at the same time, the blessing of Heaven on our beloved country, and on all means that may be employed, in vindicating its rights and advancing its welfare.

(Signed) JAMES MADISON,  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 6, 1811.

CONGRESS, NOVEMBER 5.

A little after 10 o'clock the Message was received from the President by his Secretary, and read by the Clerk.

The Clerk then proceeded to read the correspondence of Mr. Monroe and the British Minister Mr. Foster, relative to the situation of the two Countries, &c. The affair of the Little Belt and the correspondence respecting the Floridas, being postponed till

The reading of the correspondence continued till half past three o'clock, when the House adjourned.

The first was a letter from Mr. Foster to Mr. Monroe, declared the effect of the Prince Re-

gent at Mr. Pinckney's departure, &c. dated July 24.

In a letter of July 31 from Mr. Foster to Mr. Monroe, the British Minister endeavours to prove, from the ambiguous wording of the letter of the Duc de Cadore to Genl. Armstrong, August 5th, 1810, from the character of Bonaparte, from his address to the deputation of the Hanse-Towns, declaring the decrees the fundamental laws of the Empire, from the edict of Fontainebleau, October, 1810; from the letter of the Duc de Massa to the Council of Prizes; from the capture of the New-Orleans Packet and other vessels, &c. &c. that the decrees of Berlin and Milan are not repealed; and that, therefore, the law of March last prohibiting the introduction of British goods, &c. ought to be repealed. Mr. Foster strives to justify the British Orders in Council as a necessary measure of self-defence; and as perfectly justifiable in retaliation for the monstrous unprecedented edicts of Berlin and Milan. He complains of the American Government for continuing the Non-Intercourse, and thus joining Bonaparte in his measures to destroy British commerce. The blockading decree of May 1809, Mr. Foster endeavours to justify as legal and proper; not a mere paper blockade, but, the whole chart from Great to Elbe being invested with an adequate naval force for all the purposes, as a blockade in fact. Mr. F. urges the repeal of the non-intercourse, and declares that unless repealed, his government will be obliged, though painfully and unwillingly, to resort to measures of retaliation. He demands in a letter shortly after, a direct reply, whether or not the non-intercourse will be repealed?

Mr. Monroe considers our government bound to respect the solemn declaration of the French government, Aug. 1810, that the decrees were repealed; argues that they are repealed, so far as we are concerned, from the release of the New-Orleans Packet, the Grace Anne and other vessels, endeavours to avoid the meaning Mr. Foster gives to the declaration made to the deputation from the Hanse Towns; to prove the repeal by Massa's letter to the council of prizes, and that the edict of Fontainebleau was not inconsistent with the repeal. He also urges the illegality of the blockading decree of 1809; and declares the determination of our government to continue the non-intercourse unless the orders are revoked, &c.

This correspondence seems to have ceased about the last of July. During the last month it was renewed; and, Oct. 17, Mr. Monroe informs Mr. Foster of further proof of the repeal of the obnoxious decrees; sending him copies of letters from our Charge des Affaires at Paris and London, and a letter from Wellesley to our Charge des Affaires at London, mentioning dispatches sent to Mr. Foster; which however Mr. Foster has not received, though in daily expectation of them.



