

declared that he could not answer for events in case of a refusal. This language, as just as it was clear, these claims founded on the most sacred titles, have rendered unanswered, and have produced only vague assurances and distant promises.

This is not all. As if it were not enough to violate the most positive treaties, new measures have of late disclosed to Prussia the intentions of the emperor, and what she has to expect from them. The King seeing a part of his Provinces invaded, and the other threatened, and being unable to rely on the assistance of the French armies, was forced to reinforce his own, and the ordinary means being slow and insufficient, his Majesty addressed an appeal to such young Prussians as would range themselves under his standard. This appeal awakened in all hearts a lively desire of serving their country. A large number of volunteers were preparing to quit Berlin and to repair to Breslau, when it pleased the Viceroy of Italy to forbid all recruiting, and the departure of the volunteers in the provinces occupied by the French troops. This prohibition was made in the most peremptory terms, and without notice to the king. So direct an attack upon the rights of sovereignty, excited a just indignation in the breasts of his Majesty and of his faithful subjects.

At the same time, and while the places on the Oder should for a long time have been provisioned at the expence of France, after the emperor had formally declared in an audience granted to the prince de Hatzfeldt, that he had forbidden the French authorities to make any kind of requisition in the territories of the king, the governors of those fortresses received orders to take by open force, in a circle of ten leagues, every thing necessary for their defence, and maintenance. This arbitrary and unjust order, of which also the trouble was not taken to inform the king, has been executed in its whole extent, in contempt of the sacred title of property, and with circumstances of violence which it would be difficult to describe. Notwithstanding all the reasons, which he had for breaking with France, still the king wished again to try the effect of negociation. He informed the emperor Napoleon, that he would send a confidential person to the emperor of Russia, to engage him to acknowledge the neutrality of such part of Silesia, as France had acknowledged. This was the only mean left to the king, abandoned, at least for the moment, by France, to secure a safe asylum, and not to be under the cruel necessity of abandoning his dominions. The emperor pronounced decisively against this step, and did not even deign to explain himself concerning the proposals, which accompanied the overture.

In such a state of things, it could not long remain doubtful what part the king should take. For years past he had sacrificed every thing to the preservation of his political existence; now France herself puts at hazard this existence, and does nothing to protect it. Russia has the power to aggravate his misfortunes, and yet generously offers to defend him. The king cannot hesitate. Faithful to his principles and his duties, he joins his arms to those of the emperor Alexander, changing his system without changing his object. He hopes, in breaking with France and attaching himself to Russia, to obtain by an honorable peace, or by the strength of arms, the sole object of his wishes, the independence of his people, the benefits which result from it, and

the inheritance of his fathers, the half of which has been wrested from him. The king will adhere with all his power to all the propositions, conformed to the common interest of the sovereigns of Europe. He ardently desires that they may produce a state of things in which treaties shall be no longer mere truces, in which power may become the guarantee of justice, and every one, confining himself to his natural rights, may be no longer tormented in all the points of his existence, by the abuse of force.

You have here, sir, what I was charged to bring to the knowledge of your excellency. You will please to submit it to His Majesty the Emperor. Europe has beheld with astonishment the patience and long resignation of a nation once distinguished in the annals of history for her brilliant courage and her noble perseverance.

Governed at this time by the most sacred motives, there is not one among us, who is not resolved to sacrifice every consideration to the great interest of the throne, of our country, and of the independence of Europe; not one who would not willingly die in the pursuit of this noble object, and in defending his fire-side.

I have orders to repair immediately to the king, my august master, with the Prince de Hatzfeldt, the privy counsellor of state de Benguelin, and the persons attached to the different missions. I have the honor to intreat your excellency to have the goodness to furnish me with the necessary passports.

I hasten to renew to your excellency, at the same time, the assurance of my high consideration.

(Signed) KRUSEMARCK.

BOSTON, MAY 29.  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
THURSDAY, MAY 27.

The Committee on the part of the house to wait upon His Excellency to inform him of the organization of the two houses reported that His Excellency would meet the two houses in convention this day at 11 o'clock. At 11 o'clock the two houses met in convention when His Excellency the Governor delivered the following

S P E E C H:—

*Gentlemen of the Senate—and  
Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.*

The situation in which I am again placed imposes a duty upon me, by every exertion in my power, to promote the internal safety of my fellow citizens; their approbation of my conduct the last year is peculiarly grateful, and it leads me to hope that my services in the year to come will be considered with the same indulgence: without it, I feel my incompetence at this difficult season, to discharge in a satisfactory manner the duties of the Office which I have undertaken.

In pursuance of the authority given by the resolve passed at the last Session of the General Court, empowering the Governor with advice of Council to adopt certain defensive measures for the protection of the towns and harbours in the Commonwealth; three judicious persons, skilled in military affairs, were commissioned to carry into effect the intentions of the Legislature, expressed in the resolve. The Secretary will deliver you a report of their proceedings under that commission.

By a law of the United States passed in April 1808, the annual sum of two hundred thousand dollars was appropriated for the purpose of providing arms for the militia of the United States; to be transmitted to the

several states in proportion to the number of the effective militia in each state; and to be distributed under such regulations as should be prescribed by the state Legislators. In compliance with the request of the late General Court in their resolve above-mentioned, I applied to the Executive of the United States, and requested such supply of muskets as might be conveniently furnished, and as might be considered the proportion to which this Commonwealth was intitled. A copy of the answer to this application which I have received from the Secretary of War, will also be laid before you.

As we are engaged in war with a Nation of great maritime strength, your attention will be directed in a particular manner to those parts of our extensive sea coasts where the people are most exposed to depredations, and being deprived of their usual means of support, have already suffered severely, and are in danger of still greater evils. I have no doubt you will be disposed to afford them every assistance they may stand in need of within the power of the State Government. It belongs to the National Government to protect each of the States in the Union, and to provide for the common defence; but if an invasion should be made or attempted on any part of our coast, I am confident that our militia would promptly and with cheerfulness exert their utmost endeavors to repel it.

We are bound to obey the laws made in conformity with our Constitutions: but those Constitutions ensure to us the freedom of speech, and at this momentous period it is our right and duty to inquire into the grounds and origin of the present War; to reflect on the state of public affairs, and to express our sentiments concerning them with decency and frankness; and to endeavor, as far as our limited influence extends, to promote by temperate and constitutional means an honorable reconciliation. By an unnecessary War the deepest guilt is incurred, and therefore every belligerent nation should inquire which of the contending parties is chargeable with that guilt.

When war was declared against Great-Britain our complaints were chiefly founded upon her Orders in Council, and though they were revoked within four days after the declaration was published, it will be useful to attend to them when we are considering the necessity of that measure. In November 1806, the French Emperor issued his Berlin decree, declaring the British Islands in a state of Blockade, and forbidding any commerce or correspondence with them; to this succeeded the British Orders in Council, and other French decrees some of which were of a still more exceptionable character.

Although the decrees of Berlin and Milan and the Orders in Council were injurious to neutral rights, it would be uncandid to suppose that the direct object of either nation was to injure the commerce of neutrals. The French decrees might be thought necessary by that Government to affect the subjugation of Great-Britain, and the Orders in Council were declared by the latter to be retaliatory measures, adopted in consequence of the aggressions of her enemy, and to be revoked when those aggressions ceased. In their arduous struggles they seemed to have thought only of themselves: and while those struggles continued, we must have known that our commercial intercourse with them would be exposed to numerous embarrassments; but we were consoled with the reflection that these