

is impossible that the people of the United States should remain indifferent. We must now tamely and quietly submit, or we must resist by those means which God has placed within our reach.

“Your committee would not cast a shade over the American name by the expression of a doubt which branch of this alternative will be embraced. The occasion is now presented when the national character, misunderstood and traduced for a time by foreign and domestic enemies, should be vindicated. If we have not rushed to the field of battle like the nations who are led by the mad ambition of a single chief in the avarice of a corrupted court, it has not proceeded from the fear of war, but from our love of justice and humanity. That proud spirit of liberty and independence which sustained our fathers in the successful assertion of rights against foreign aggression is not yet sunk. The patriotic fire of the Revolution still lives in the American breast with a holy and unextinguishable flame, and will conduct this nation to those high destinies which are not less the reward of dignified moderation than of exalted valor. But we have borne with injury until forbearance has ceased to be a virtue. The sovereignty and independence of these states, purchased and sanctified by the blood of our fathers, from whom we received them not for ourselves only but as the inheritance of our posterity, are deliberately and systematically violated. And the period has arrived when, in the opinion of your committee, it is the sacred duty of congress to call forth the patriotism and resources of the country. By the aid of these, and with the blessing of God, we confidently trust we shall be able to procure that redress which has been sought for by justice, by remonstrance, and forbearance in vain.”

On the sixteenth of December, congress adopted the resolutions appended to the report, and speedy action was taken to further the necessary preparations for hostilities on the part of the United States.

On the fourth of January, 1812, a bill was passed increasing the number of men in the regular army. “It also provided for the appointment of two major-generals and five additional brigadiers; also for a bounty to new recruits of sixteen dollars, and, at the time of discharge, three months’ extra pay and a certificate for one hundred and sixty acres of land. On the fourteenth of the month another act was passed appropriating a million of dollars for the purchase of arms, ordnance, camp-equipage, and quartermasters’ stores, and four hundred thousand dollars for powder, ordnance and small arms for the navy. Thus, in a brief space of time, the little army of the peace establishment, which had been comparatively inactive, was swelled in prospective from about three thousand men to more than seventy thousand regulars and volunteers. The president was authorized to call upon the governors of states each to furnish his respective quota of one hundred thousand militia, to be held in readiness to