

In the debate upon the answer to the President's speech, or in the course of discussing the measures which it recommends, it may be said that <sup>defensive</sup> France has ~~nothing~~ <sup>nothing</sup> to fear from the U.S.

France it may be ~~challenged~~ has to fear, 1st. The deprivation of those supplies of various kinds which she has hitherto received by American vessels, and the interdiction of ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> ~~merchandise~~ <sup>merchandise</sup> and which are essential to the prosecution of her continental war. 2d. The clamours of her allies, (Spain & the United Netherlands) from the injuries they must experience should she oblige them to adopt similar measures to those she herself is pursuing. 3d. The dangerous <sup>embarrassed</sup> ~~situation~~ <sup>situation</sup> to which she will in particular <sup>in particular</sup> reduce Spain, should she drag her into the war, considering that the fate, at least of ~~Spain~~ <sup>Spain</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Florida's~~ <sup>Florida's</sup> ~~small~~ <sup>small</sup> ~~islands~~ <sup>islands</sup> depends upon ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> ~~obtaining~~ <sup>obtaining</sup> the friendship of the U.S. 4th. The certain loss of her West India Islands from a want of our provisions and other necessary supplies, which must inevitably throw them into the hands of Great Britain.

What on the other hand has the U.S. to fear from France? It is not probable that in the present situation of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~French~~ <sup>French</sup> ~~marine~~ <sup>marine</sup> ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> can be spared from it a detachment adequate to make any <sup>impression</sup> on the U.S. should the measures of defence <sup>contended for</sup> be adopted, we know that she cannot furnish a fleet to protect her West India Islands, and ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~able~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~send~~ <sup>send</sup> a fleet <sup>that could</sup> <sup>effectually</sup> <sup>disrupt</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>United</sup> <sup>States</sup> <sup>coastline</sup> <sup>islands</sup>. But admitting that she may make such an attempt, would not the armament be thought by England to be destined at least <sup>at least</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~employed~~ <sup>employed</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~least~~ <sup>least</sup> ~~upon~~ <sup>upon</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~suspension~~ <sup>suspension</sup>; for the West Indies; and would it not therefore be watched, intercepted or dispersed without much any agency ~~whatsoever~~ on the part of the U.S.

Such being the position of the U.S. relative to France ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> ~~every~~ <sup>every</sup> ~~thing~~ <sup>thing</sup> ~~peace~~ <sup>peace</sup> is to be hoped from negotiation should she see that our preparations are calculated to meet war.

May 21st 1797  
Given to Wm. Smith.

In the debate upon the answer to the Presidents Speech, or in the course of discussing the defensive measures which it recommends, it may become a question, whether France has anything to fear from the U.S.

France it may be shown, has to fear 1st. The deprivation of those supplies of various kinds which she has heretofore received by American vessels, and the [???] of Amer. merchants and which are essential to the prosecution of her continental war. 2d. The clamours of her allies, (Spain & the United Netherlands) from the injuries they must experience should she oblige them to adopt similar measures to these she herself is pursuing. 3d. The critical situation to which she will in particular reduce Spain, should she drag her into the war, considering that the fate, at least of [???] the Floridas, and Louisiana depends upon her retaining the friendship of the U. S. 4th. The certain loss of her West India Islands from a want of our provisions and other necessary supplies, which must inevitably throw them into the hands of Great Britain.

What on the other hand has the U. S. to fear from France? It is not probable that in the present situation of the French Marine, that there can be spared from it a detachment adequate to make any impression on the U. S. should the measures of Defence contended for be adopted, we well know that she cannot furnish a fleet to protect her West India Islands, and shall we suppose her able to send a fleet to attack the U.S. that could [naturally?] destroy the United States? But admitting that she may make such an attempt, would not the armament be thought by England to be destined for the West Indies at least must make England get at least upon that supposition; and would it not therefore be watched, intercepted or dispersed without much or any agency whatever on the part of the U.S.

Such being the position of the U. S. relation to France and to all every thing pacific is to be hoped from negotiation should she see that our preparations are calculated to meet war.

## **Article I, Section 8:**

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

**Who is the author of this letter?**

**When was it written?**

**In the second paragraph, the author lists four reasons that the French will not be a strong in a war with the Americans as they might seem. See if you can find them and list them below:**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**What is confusing about the letter? What else do you need to know to make sense of it?**