THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1810.

AMERICAN NAVY.

Mr. GILES & SPEECH.

In the Senate of the U.S. on the Bill for fitung out, &c. all the frigates belonging to the United States.

Mr Giles said the bill under consideration grew out of the President's messare of the 3d inst. In that message, the President recommends a system of preparatory measures to meet any exigencies that may await this country ; of which system, the measure proposed be the bill forms one essential part,-The President commences by reminding Congress that the law authorising a detannent of 100,000 men from the miless, will expire on the 30th of March would long since have been reported by michaed by the message; but a majonix of the committee thought that the call of the Pre-i ent would best be ansyrred by the hill reported by the honotake gentleman from Vermont, (Mr. Bearley) and which was vesterday undescensi eration - The President then priceeds in the following manner:

to it will rest with them. (Congress) also to termine how far further provision may be expedient, for putting into actual service. if necessary, any part of the naval armament

nd a secaployed " At a period presenting features in the commer of the eign powers towards the United Sales, which impose on them the necessity of hart measures involving expence, it is a hap a consideration that such is the solid state of the public credit, that reliance can be justy placed, on any logal provision, that may be made for resorting to it, in a convenient form, and to an a lequal " amount."

From this recommendation, as well as from the papers and other informauon ostamed from the Navy Department in relation to this subject, the ne sure was addressed to the committee by two obvious and powerful consi-

The one, to preserve the frig tes proposed to be repaired from entire destruc-

The other to employ them as instruments of protection, and defence in the

every of war, Sec. With respect to the first object, it is to eremarked, the Secretary of the Naty falorias you, and this information, he believed, fortided upon an actual examimation of the vessels; that they required material repairs, that they would probably he damaged 30 per cent, by delaying the repairs for one year; and shortly therewiter be totally unworthy of repair. That the present cost of repairs would be about equal to one half of the original cot of new vessels; and that when repared they would be better vessels than could be built of green timber. That the repair of the whole of them, could be completed by next fall, if the work w sall to be done at this place. Whereas to iell timber for new frigates and to complete them out of timber now to be pro-used, would require two or three i

Under these circumstances, the commarce were left to the alternatives eithe of giving up these filipates to entire Wester and destruction, or to substitute &c. or to provide for repairing the friher bell. They preferred the last altertaire; and surely, it is recommended moreone, reconomy in time, and the su-Plated, ac. &c.

If would therefore, endeavor to put this sure of in its true point of view by bestowing a f. w observations on it.

In he first place he would call to the recollection of gentlemen f r they ap-Par to have furgotten or overlooked the cramsianc, that the present naval estable shiment was fixed in the years 1800, 1 at und r the administration of Mr. I ff rem, with the approbation and consent of himself, and he believed, of svery other re-whitean then in Congress,-That at that time, the es ablishment was

now proposed to be repair d, the establishment will then be less by three frigates, han was thought proper and reas mable by the republicans at that ime. He asked, wh teircumstances had taken pl co since 1800, 1801, tojj sife a further xcision of the naval establishment. or with what propriety, can those who then constinted to that establishment be accused of inconsistency of conduct, or

change of political principles, for consen ing to an establishment now, less by three f igates, than they then thought

both reasonable and proper-? Since that time the U. States have been blest with a vis increase of popullation, a vast increase of wealth, particula ly mere mile wealth, and increase next, and recommends its continuance of revenue, &c. At the same time with for a longer period. A bill to that effect an un xampled diminu i n of public debt, and withal, they have in the mean the committee, but a committee of the | time had their rights, commercial rights Harse of Representatives had anticipated particularly, assailed by both the great to them in the report, & it was thought | belligerents of Europe without any pronanecessary to bring the same subject | pects of telexation from either, &c. He letne the senate at the same time - asked whether they could find in any of The President then recommends a mi- these circumstances, causes to justify at heav force of 20 000 men, to be raised the present moment disman li g their sistiffeed in a state of readiness to be a navy or suring affor unnerving the naing tome difference of opinion exist- sumed the whole of them would natue sto the partie lardescription of torce | rally produce a controppendency. IIsaid, these imputations well been throws out by some g n lemen, for whom he had he high st respect and he believ ed with the most canda, though mistaken, convictions on their minds; but an attentive review of the events, which preceded, the causes which produced and the even swhich followed the change of admi istration in 1800. During the federal administration, he federal party conceived the erroneous opinion, and hat the constitution of the U.S. wanted energy; and to supply this was, they undertook to legislate energy into it .-For this purpose they devised expedients to justify it, and resorted to physical force, armies and navies, to supply his misconceived fatal defect in the constitution, and to form the essential substitute for energy; which was in their view, the great desidera um of the go-

These measures required enormous expends; taxes were imposed on the people, to defray them; and when they were informed, that these expences were intended to procure energy, they did not believe that they were in want of any such energy. They found their rulers were acting under a mistakenitision; that they had departed from the necessary practical objects of the g vernment, and gone in quest of visionary theories, which existed only in then own deluded imaginations, which could be of no proctical use to the people and which cost them vast sums of money &c. They therefore took the government out of federal hands, and pur it into the hands of their opponents, the republican party. The visionary theory of energy was therefore the fatal error of the federal party; and that error deprived it of the power of the nation. The government being thus placed in the hands f the republicans, whilst heated with the z al of opposition to the fede ral doctrines, and flushed with their recent triumph, it was natural for them. with the best intentions, to run into the opposite extreme; to go too far in the relax tions of the powers of the g v ernment, and to include themselves n he deligh ful visions of extending the range of individual lib rty. They were hew thes in their stead under all the therefore in denger of relaxing the powthis death ages of encreased expense, de-lers of the government so far, as to dethe times and the inconvenience of a prive it of the means of its own preser-Liming them of unsersoned timber, &c. | varion and execution for domestic obtects; and o impair or destroy its effi gates now in being, as contemplated in Leacy in resisting foreign aggressions, -The theory therefore of the republi cans, as opposed to that of the federal by every consideration of aconomy in lists, was the relexation of governmental restraints, or the extension of individual being quality of the vessels when com- liberty. I was na ural that in the vi britin of the political pendulum, it should go from one ex-reme to another; an I that this has been too mu h the case with the republican administration he regretted to say, he feered, would be demonstrated by a very superficial review of the events of the last two or three years. If said it had been his for une to oppose b the fthese extreme - That. Le thought the true poli y of the U. S. !! would be found in the medium between these two extremes-that he had stead-

gound; and hat he should not be dri-

said he was equal v averse from incurring expence, or devising expedients, merely to procure ideal enegy for the government; and from an undae relaxation of its powers, stimulated by a visionary philanthrophy, in a vain pursuit of the extension of individual liberty beyond the susceptibility of human nature, or in other words, ir reconcitable with the imperfections of the human character. He always had been, and still was willing, to call into action the wh le constitutional powers of the g v erume t, for the purpose of efficing al its prictical e. legitimate and xpedomestic character. And he believed the government had powers sufficient f r all i's objects, if wisely a id effi iently applied. He said, if any exemple were wanted to illustrate the truth and correctness of these observations, i would be found in the case under consideration. In the objections to a navaestablishment at this time, less by three frigates, than was deemed reasonable in 1800--1801; and in the intimated incons stency in the conduct of those, who then approved that establishment, and ealed no service at the shortest warn- | val arm of their government? He pre- | who now approve of one of hiss extent. Perhaps the tru h is, that gentlemen h ve go e so for in the pleasing and laudable effort, to improve the hoppin ss f m r, by ext n ing he scape of individual lib r v. that they upose those who stand s'ill, are receding from them in an opposite direction, while their roors would be easily corrected by they are not sensible of their awn motous. He said under the view fithis and; and it circumstances should in. his judgment here ther render it expedien; he would vote for a still further extensi n of naval e juip nents. He said acted under the mistaken impression. I there was no danger in his judgment, of naving a navy in this country beyond a very limited extent; because the agricultural and mechanical interests were greatly superior to the commercial; and they would always aff and a complete security against a too great extension of

> which in 'acced the committee to report the bill, was to employ the frigates a instruments of protection and detence, and even of annovance in the event of war. Gentie nen have asked whether the whole of the frightes a e companie to resist the British fleet, or even a small squadron of it? To which it is inswered, no, they are not. But it by no means follows, that because they are incompetent to at hieve that splending exploit, that therefore they cannot be of any use at all. He conceived they might be materially usef I, in def. rding a town in case of a nav dattack. They would form an essential part of a combised force for that objec . Fortifications on land have been erected at an immense expence, Gun-boats have beer provided for the defence of the seaport tow is, & . an ! frig ites are in many respects assential to their combined operation. They are besides important in boats, &c. &c. and it has always been understood, that their operations must be incomplete w theat the oper trens of vessels of war. If therefore considered it incorrect to single out this particular lar part of the naval force; and to ask what it can atchieve sing'y and alone ! It would be more just and or per, to consider it as port of a combined system of force. In that point of view he believed it would not be inefficient. He believed they might also be occasional v employed in harrassing the comm ree of an enemy with confilerable effect. particularly if Great-Britain should be

Mr. G. said, the second consideration

that enemy. Mr G. said, he shou'd avail himsel! of that occasion to be x diet in saving his views of the question of peace or war. He was induced to do this because his views upon that question had been misunderstood, or at least misrepresented to the public, and pretended to be derived from conversations, and other sou ces of infor nation easily to be inisconceived, and more easy to be misrepresented; and for which he did not feel hi nself at all responsible. He had al ways ben in the h bu of frank y expo. sing his views without reserve in his place on that floor upon all subjects, when required by the duties of his station; he should now do so, and for their correctness in that place he acknowledge I himself to be responsible to the fisity placed his footing up n that public.

He said, that with respect to pea e or

and that after completing the figates , had assumed on unwise position. He dispute between two nations, war was at [] the opti n of either party; peace was not-peace required the con-ent of both Whilst, therefore, war may be in our power, peace may be beyond our controul. G. Britain may make war upon us; and it is our most imperious duly to he prepared to meet it. He said as to the probability of that event, he had no certain data to guide his judgment, but if i be even uncertain, preparations rught to be made to meet is with effect and advantage. He was, therefore, in f vor of every preparation both by land and by sea to meet war; but he considered the question of making preparadient objects, whether of a foreign or Hoos to meet war, a very different thing, fron a qui stion to de lare, or to make wa - o much so, that resorting to the me has always been considered as the that rather than submit the U. States night, must and will go to war for the preservation and maintenance of their ights, &c. He drew this conclusi n with con i lence and certainty, from the character of the dispute between the two countries. What is the real chapart of the subject, he would vite fir the I meter of that dispute, particular'v as it respects commercial rights? Independently of aggressions vially affecting the charact rand interes s of the United States continued wi nout atonement or relaxation, & which are two well known to require repetition here, the real chaacter of that dispute when stripped of. all its disguises and embelishments, consists in this :- whether the United States of Great Britain, shall regulate the commerce of the U. S ates? Or rather; whether the U. Fares shall regul ite their own commerce consistently with the law of nations? Or shall G. Britain regulate it, in contraven ion of led by the constitution of the United the law of nations? The right to regulate commerce is p thaps the m s important right confiled to Congress; under the Constitution, and that Concress might po sess that power was ceruniv the primary inducement to the formation of the Constitution. It is known that the inethicacy of the

commercial regulations of the several sales, and the ex remely inconvenient the different states upon each other, first is vernment, for the purpose of regulating commerce by one uniform and efficient system; of course the power to regulate commerce may be considered as the foundation of the constitution itself. The people of the U. States have lelegated a Congress charged with the sa red trust of protecting and exercising formishing officers and men for the Gun- his gr / constituti nal power. How can that Congress abandon it to the ex ercise of a foreign power, without an alment treasin the infid-livy to he people. by whim they are delegated? Great-B itam not only claims, but actually exre ses the pow r of regulating, and even of restraining and prohibiting your commerce at pleasure; and so far has she carried the exercise of his power, as to sub-titute her own illicit com morce if the place of your lawful, but prohibited commerce! Yes, in atter ontempt of your rights and authority. and in uter disregard of her own cha- ty and mad ambition of the rulers of racter, she is now in the daily habit of granting licences to her own subjects to dispensible necessity. It no doubt will commit treas n against the common pappear wonderful to a speculative plus law of the land, by authorising hem to carry on an illimit commerce with her nemy, in substitution of your lawful commerce. He believed it impossible for the U. States to submit long to this unexampled state of things; and therefore that they ought, must and will ere long go to war to assert and main ain their violated rights, their injured mt. rests, &c. &c. if no other expedient will answer the object. Mr. G. said hat this view of the

subject was addressed with peculiar force to the commercial parts of the U States-and this state of things if persevered in by G. Britain, must and will aw ken them, in spite of all their prejudices, to a sense of their own danger and interest; and whenever that snall be the case, they must and will unue in thought a proper and reasonable one; ven from it, until he was convinced he war, it should be observed—that is a measures of protection and redress.

Mr. G. said it was astonishing to hims how gentlemen, representing the commercial parts of the U.S. could ever for a moment suppose, that himself, or the people in the scene of country from which he came, could desire to ent r into an unnecessary war with G. Britain. That part of the country, above all others found an interest in an intercourse with Great-Britain, particularly at the present moment; the articles it furnished were at this time particularly suited to the British market. They were principally tobacco, flour and wheat .--The whole of which were now in brisk demand for the British market, particularly the best James River tobacco, which was so peculiarly suited to that market, as now to command from 7 to 19 dollars per cwt..... whereas Maryland best experient to avoid the other alter- tobacco, which was consumed in the native; whilet, herefore, he was against li prohibited markets of the continent, was declaring or making war under present il in little demand and comparatively low incumstances and at this time, he was fin price. Indeed from these causes, in favor of preparations to meet it, which I there has been a peculiar activity in the might hereaf er render a resort to it un- 1 commercial scene, in that part of the neces ary. But he would at the same | country for some months past; and ome say explicitly, that if Great Britain | gentlemen, who supposed him disposed would continue her course of histilities to plunge into a unnecessary war with ag tinst us he would at a convenient and [Great Britain, could not give him credit roper time, be decidedly in favor of war, | for even the most superficial consideraa her than submit to her lawiess pre- tion of his own interest, or the interest tensions and aggressions. He believed, of that part of the country. But notwithstanding these considerations, he was not willing, himself nor were the people of that part of the country wil. ling to submit to the abandonment of a single attribute of national sovereignty; still less were they disposed to abandon the great constitutional right in question. Mt. G. said he thought war justifia. ble only in case of self idefence. That as he had often done before on that

war merely for the acquisition of territory, or any other object of aggrand sement or ambition; but what is a war of self-defence? When any attribute of national sovereign v whatever, is atacked by a foreign power, it then becomes a case of self-defence to the party attacked. In the case between the United States and Great-Britain, not only is a national attribute assailed, but the highest national attribute sanctiona s ates; the corner stone of the constiution itself. This then is stri tly a case of self-defence, aggravated with all the circumstances of a continued claim, and contemptuous insult. But altho' h deemed a war purely defensive alone justifichle; yet he thought it perfectly correct, to carry on such a war, when uncertaken, offensively. And that it was perfectly justifiable to seize on terinfluence of the conflicting systems of intory, and appropriate it as a just retribution for the evils of war unjustly suggested the necessity of a General linflicied by the culpable assailant, of to es art to any other means of offensive annoyance whatever, &c. Under evey view of this subject, therefore, he hought the measure contemplated by the bill recommended as one part of a

floor, he now solemnly protested against

syst-m of preparations for war. Mr. G. said he would now bestow some observations on the objection of expence. This point afforded an argument always powerful, and for some vears pastirresistable. It is said, 600,000 dollars, the contemplated expence for equipping all the frigates, is enormous. fie said it was so; and no gentleman regretted the necessity of incurring this and other similar expences, more than nimself. But the correct and proper q esti n is not-is this sum not enornous? It is, how can it be avoided, & eve the rights and interests of the nation? The real object of this expence, is to save the U. S. against the rapaciother nations; and hence arises its inlosophic mind, to contemplate the enormous expences incurred by nations, for the pu pose of self protection against the rapacity and ambition of the rulers of other nations. In this respect, however, the U.S. have been at all times peculiarly fortunite, coin fared with as ny other nation with which they have any in imate relations. Take G. Bris tain, for instance, and calquia e the enormous expences she incurs, to protect herself from the ambition of her own, and the rulers of oher nations; and compare them with those incurred by the U. S. for the same obj it; and he later would be to the serior as a drop in the ocean. This would be the result in some degree in a comparison with any other natio . But the question is, whether it is no better to incur I this expence, than to yiem to the tatal