

RESOLUTIONS.

CHAPTER I.

VIEWING the present state of our foreign relations, we with astonishment and regret behold the emperor of the French withholding from our country those indemnifications which ought to have been rendered with liberality and promptness.

After the aggressions of Great Britain, had by long continued practice been regarded by her government as right—after the forbearance of the American government had assumed the appearance of cowardice, war is reluctantly, unavoidably, but decisively declared.

Animated by the most sincere love of peace, the president of the United States in the same dispatch, announces to the British government the existence of war, and the equitable easy and honourable means by which its progress might be arrested, and its calamities permanently prevented; but this extraordinary proof of a humane and pacific disposition is treated with contempt, familiarized with the slaughter of man around the globe, the British government prefers the effusion of human blood, to a suspension of the inhuman practice of impressment even during the short space of an armistice agreed on for the purpose of negotiating a just and honourable peace, nay, notwithstanding the offer made by the government of the United States to exclude British subjects from our merchantmen and navy; but what atrocities are too enormous to be found in that government, whose characteristic features are cruelty and perfidy? which stimulates the savage to drench his tomahawk and scalping knife in the blood of our frontier men, women and infants, which, making the most solemn professions of friendship and peace, strives by the malignant breath of its secret emissaries to kindle in our nation dissatisfaction, discord, rebellion and civil war, with all their sanguinary and horrible consequences.

This is extinguished in the American government, and in every American bosom, the last hope of finding, in the conduct of Great Britain toward the United States a single voluntary act of justice or humanity.—Impressed with these considerations, and with others of a collateral and subordinate nature, WE the senate and house of representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania in general assembly met, do adopt the following resolutions.

1. **RESOLVED**, that the declaration of war against the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, issued by the general government on the eighteenth of June last, was the

result of solemn deliberation, sound wisdom and imperious necessity.

2. *Resolved*, that the sword being drawn should never be sheathed till our wrongs are redressed, our commerce unfettered, and our citizens freed from the danger of British impressment, of imprisonment in the floating dungeons of the British navy, and the painful necessity of fighting the battles of an inveterate enemy, against their fathers, their brethren, their native country, and their friends.

3. *Resolved*, that to exert all the energies of his body and of his mind and to devote his property, to bring the existing war to a speedy just and honourable issue and to teach our insolent foe that the Americans are as free from timidity and weakness in battle, as from covert and disguise in negotiating, is a duty which every citizen of the Union owes to himself, to his country, and to his God.

4. *Resolved*, that with painful regret we contemplate the refusal by the executive authorities of some of the states in the Union, to furnish, on the president's demand, their quota of militia for the defence of the sea coast, and that with confidence we expect from the national legislature, a prompt attention to this alarming and unprecedented occurrence.

5. *Resolved*, that the promptness and the zeal with which the governor of this commonwealth executed the military orders of the president since the commencement of hostilities, entitle him to the gratitude of this general assembly of Pennsylvania, and of the nation.

6. *Resolved*, that the governor of this commonwealth be instructed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the president of the United States, with a request that he communicate them to congress.

JOHN TOD, *Speaker*
of the House of Representatives.

P. C. LANE, *Speaker of the Senate.*

In the House of Representatives December 16th, 1812—
Read and adopted.—Attest,

GEO. HECKERT, *Clerk,*
of the House of Representatives.

In Senate, December 10th, 1812; read and adopted—Attest,
JOSEPH A. M'JIMSEY, *Clerk*
of the Senate.

CHAPTER II.

RESOLVED, by the Senate and House of Representatives, in general assembly met, That the secretary of the commonwealth be, and he is hereby directed to furnish each mem-