

Relative to the policy pursued by the late administration

said resolutions have excited; therefore, **RESOLVED**, That it is the conscientious belief, and unbiassed conviction, of this legislature, representing the interests and speaking the sentiments of the independent freemen of Maryland, that the aforesaid act imposing an embargo, and the several acts supplementary thereto, were wise, efficient and dignified measures, rendered indispensably necessary by the unjust and illegal proceedings of the belligerents of Europe, and the convulsed and unprecedented state of the world, as the only adviseable alternatives between a destructive and calamitous war, and the humiliating surrender of our national honour and independence; that the many evils which were stated to have flowed from the adoption of the said embargo, and the gloomy picture of its consequences, pourtrayed by the aforesaid resolutions, were contrary to the good opinion, and to the general sentiments, of a large majority of the free and independent voters of this state; that so far from proscribing and spiriting away "the existence of commercial enterprize," it must be obvious to every reflecting and dispassionate mind, that the object of our government was to secure it ultimately to the citizens of these United States, by contending for principles, and demanding acknowledgments of those just rights, without which our commerce will always be precarious and exposed; that the very policy, so much censured, protected and promoted the interests of our country, by withdrawing from the rapacious and piratical plunderers of the ocean, our property to an immense and incalculable amount, by rescuing from seizure and bondage our "brave and hardy tars," by diverting a portion of our wealth and attention to the establishment of those manufactories, which are necessary to our subsistence, essential to our independence, and which have, in the short lapse of two years, succeeded to an extent surpassing the most sanguine calculations of the many honest, ingenious and industrious mechanics, with which the United States abound; that the "jealousies," and "discontent, distrust, suspicion and alarm," and the violation of "the sovereignty of the laws," may with more correctness be attributed to the opponents of the late administration, who have united into one body, and particularly to their leaders, who by their feigned and uniform disapprobation of every measure pursued by the late administration, however wise and virtuous, have shewn and evinced a determination not to "sheath the sword of opposition" until it had reached its destruction and overthrow, and that their opposition has been aided by the specious misrepresentations and insidious exertions of the friends of the great belligerents of Europe, and by the conduct of artful and designing men, who seek their own aggrandizement through the distresses of their fellow-citizens and the commotions of their native country; that the insolent boastings of the British ministry originated not so much from a disregard of the operation of the embargo, as from a confident hope of its speedy removal, and a desire to promote the success, to further the views, and to verify the predictions, of that party in this country, which it conceived most compliant to its wishes, and most friendly to its interests; that the adoption of the said resolutions by a majority of the late "house of delegates," may have had the most injurious tendency; that it is feared, by some unfortunate concurrence of circumstances, (which the great wisdom of the ma-