

have become indispensable to our prosperity; and that whilst we shall continue (as our government have always been,) willing and ready at any time, to free our intercourse and trade with foreign nations from every shackle, and trust to a fair competition of enterprise, skill and industry, in such pursuits as may best suit each to engage in, to meet privilege with privilege—it has become our interest, and behoves us as an independent nation, to meet restriction with restriction—to do towards other nations as they do towards us—to protect our labours against theirs, as they protect theirs against us—to “free our agriculture from a dependence on the councils and conduct of others, and to promote arts, manufactures and population at home.”

That any doubt should ever have been entertained of the constitutional power of Congress, so “to regulate our commerce with foreign nations,” as to afford protection to any and every branch of national industry, that may be thought proper, against the hostile legislation and regulations of foreign nations, appears to us very surprising; and especially so, after the uniform exercise of the power (and until lately, unquestioned,) from the meeting of the very first Congress under the constitution, to the present moment; and after embargoes have been laid and long continued, and acts of prohibition and total non-intercourse, frequently passed.

With all the respect for those who entertain the opinion that this power has not been granted, to which great talents and undoubted patriotism justly entitle many of them, we cannot entertain a shade of doubt upon the subject. And the late masterly argument and view of it presented to the public, by one of the fathers of the constitution, appears to us so conclusive, that we cannot resist the belief that it must carry conviction to every unprejudiced mind. It has left nothing for us to add.

The communication recently made to Congress by the President of the United States, which we presume has been read with interest and attention by you all, exhibits a great degree of prosperity in our national concerns, and affords the best evidence of the ability, fidelity and judgment, with which our national government has been administered for the last four years.

Notwithstanding the large sums which have been expended on works of internal improvement and objects connected therewith; on the fortifications and gradual increase of the navy, we are assured by the able officer who superintends the national finances, that in less than five years, the national debt, that scourge of nations, may be paid off, when our whole resources will be at the disposal of the representatives of the people, to be applied by them in any manner most advisable for the promotion of the happiness and prosperity of our country.

This prosperous condition of the national treasury affords a favourable opportunity to Congress, to grant to such of the states as have received no portion of the public lands, a due proportion of that common domain for purposes of education.

A grant of this description has, we believe, been made to