tended, at least calculated to mislead. For, as he understood it, this remonstrance, this protest, was addressed to the President, and not the power, if authorised to pursue the enquiry to the utmost extent of the nature of the case demanded, to enforce their process; they were a substitute for the enquiry, it must make believe. It was therefore that he was not to be taken in by this; it was therefore that he was bound to do his duty to his country by persisting in an investigation; that at least if he could not satisfy the Executive, he might satisfy the American people; for when its nature was known the calumny would not be so great.

This disposition for enquiry seemed to be manifested on all sides of the House. They wished to arrive at a satisfactory certainty whether this charge was true or not. If the mode in which they were sent (on what authority he did not know) was pursued by the government—if that mode was such as to reach the end which was now aimed at, why refuse to delegate this power to a committee? The measure of appointing a committee of enquiry was not communicated to the House officially as it might be, but was in the course of proceedings, nor in such a way that they could place confidence in it, not mentioning at the same time any disrespect to the gentleman from Kentucky who had stated the circumstance. It was not for him, Mr. G. to say that a court was not competent; and here he pledged himself as upon a rock from the ground that he was competent, that it was not in the power, if it was in the disposition of the President, Congress, or any authority to deal with an enquiry of this sort, except the House gave him the authority on which he suspected it. He did not know whether the President had the power to compel the attendance of witnesses except in cases of military mutiny and military men. How then was the evidence of the gentleman from Orleans to be got at? How was the intervention of the great constitutional power of this House—the only way. If this those gentlemen were to know how wished to give General Wilkinson an opportunity of shewing his innocence, or those who doubted it, wished to have an opportunity of giving evidence of his guilt, the mode which Mr. G. proposed was the proper one: if not the only, assuredly the most proper way.

What was the accusation? Not for an overt act or crime—not for an offence committed in the face of day, or which was a couble of open proofs. The crime was secret, if committed at all. The very nature of the act, being done in secret, and studiously avoiding the attention, acting with such precaution as not to permit his name to be written or spoken, required a particular mode of proceeding. There was no other mode which would give satisfaction to the people of this country, to be satisfied, fair, impartial, and unprejudiced investigation. If General Wilkinson could with no hurt disclosure of his mode of conduct, he deserved the confidence of the people: if not, it became the duty of the house to enquire further.

It had been said by some that the papers read by the gentleman from Virginia should be sent to the executive; but nothing had been said about the gentleman from Orleans. He, Mr. G. would ask, the gentleman from Tennessee why would he send these papers to the executive? Why, if he should suppose as evidence which the President was to communicate to the house, the evidence which had been instituted. If the gentleman considered it proper that any evidence should be sent, why not send the whole? And if they should do all, why not take measures without which they could not procure it? It did strike Mr. G. that the idea had doubtless arisen in the course; that if they sent any they should send the whole. He would in this case pray, that if there were in the most distant prospect of being able to accomplish the object sought for, place before the President such evidence as could not be resisted.

The gentleman from Tennessee was pleased to say that the House had no more business with this enquiry than the President of the United States had with impeachments, which exclusively pertained to the House of Representatives of the United States. He, Mr. G. would ask, if they call the particular province of the President; but he knew that it was the peculiar province of the House of Representatives to originate impeachments, and yet he had seen in the message from the President to the House an implied recommendation to them on that subject. Mr. G. did not expect to find, he thought the different branches of government did well to sustain each other in all events. The President, said he, has given an evidence that he thinks himself competent to advise us; and I really think he acted properly and fairly in him the compliment; to shew him that we can advise him, and give him the benefit of our sentiments. He was in this way that the House would effectually perform its duty. He understood that resources had been appropriated money for half-fortification this session; he wanted no half-way measures in the conduct of the commander in chief, for this half-way business would not answer.

Was it the duty of the House to do this was unquestioned; it had exercised that power in a variety of cases. The only question was, whether this was one of those cases in which the House should exercise that power? Was this the only mode in which they could exercise it? Gen. Wilkinson if he was guilty, or satisfy the community of his innocence if he were not guilty. Mr. G. was not the friend of his friends and enemies should take this plain course; this was the object and this was the mode in which it was to be attained. Mr. G. was not influenced by any personal dislike to Gen. W. for he had no personal acquaintance with the man. Gen. W. had never injured him or any of his connections or friends. He was for himself perfectly free to decide; but he should ill discharge his duty to his country from an apprehension of the effect he was to advocate the most effectual means for an enquiry. He should express an idea that if the House was to adopt a course, it would say that the present case was a test of the impartiality of the House, and of the confidence in government and deference to the Executive, the House should exercise that impartiality in the case of a friend against an enemy, he should have hopes of the salvation of his country. It was here, he understood, where the fate of this country was to be decided: it was here that corruption was to be arrested and exposed, if not here, he was afraid no where.

He was more desirous of seeing this enquiry take the proper course, because it was the first enquiry of this place, in which this officer had been charged with violating the constitution of the United States, the fundamental charter of our rights, and the oppression of our citizens, had long ago been made in the strongest manner. If the constitution was for no purpose, were paper works which a mistaken policy had unfortunately made people under foot, it was time the people should know it that they might substitute for it, or where the fault was in the ration of independence, and among the causes of our separation from the mother country, enumerate that, if it was the only way in which they could convict Gen. W. that he knew of no power of appeal. He had given to the events to convict him. Mr. H. said it was honest in him to state his designs to the House; I happened to be the gentleman wished an enquiry into this conduct of Gen. W.—that he thought it was high time to make an enquiry, lest he should overwhelm us, not a great powerful government committing these enormities, but a mere military commander, committing them in open impunity—when the spirit of the nation was so base as not to cry out against the enormous violations of its rights—when he saw this, he was disposed to think that the time was ripe for the enquiry, instituted by an enquiry into this particular charge, which was, to say the least of it, sufficient to demonstrate that the constitution be found that the people of the United States were not sufficiently attentive to the violations of their rights, if they were not sufficiently attentive to the violations of