

impressment in private vessels. They contended that the neutral flag was the safeguard of those sailing under it, a doctrine, the application of which, was greatly in favor of the United States, as it enabled them to recruit their navy largely by deserters from British ships. As a measure of retaliation in March 1806 the United States Congress passed a non-importation act, prohibiting the importation of nearly every article of British manufacture. The Act was to be in abeyance until the following November, and, in the meantime, negotiations were again opened for a Treaty which should put an end to the difficulties between the two nations. William Pinkney of Maryland was sent as Envoy Extraordinary to London to join with Monroe, the resident minister, in this work. Negotiations commenced in August and after some delay, a Treaty was arranged in most respects more favorable than the Jay Treaty. The British Government declined to relinquish the right of impressment by former Treaty, but the British Commissioners put in writing a statement that it was the intention of the Government not to allow impressments from American vessels on the high seas, except under extraordinary circumstances, such as having on board known deserters from the British navy. The new Treaty placed the trade between the United States and the European possessions of Great Britain on a footing of perfect reciprocity. It was also stipulated that no American vessels could be visited or seized by British cruisers within five miles of the coast of the United States. But the time spent in the negotiation of this Treaty was wasted, for Jefferson, who was then President, had resolved upon a step which would effectually prevent it from going into operation. Instead of