

Did the gentlemanly conduct of Captain Stopford, deserve such a return as this? Will Mr. Jefferson pretend that such treatment did not furnish just cause of offence and provocation? If he can reconcile so base a transaction to modern maxims of philosophy, we ought to be thankful that the plain common sense of the country we inhabit, is not yet so perverted, and that the terms *right* and *wrong*, *kindness* and *unkindness*, still retain their proper and appropriate meanings.

We will now notice the case of the Halifax: A midshipman and five men are sent from that ship to weigh the kedge anchor. Those men suddenly take possession of the boat, seize upon their officer, whom they threaten to kill, and reach the American shore. Though the circumstances attending their desertion are peculiarly aggravating, yet they are no sooner landed, than they are enlisted by the American recruiting officer, Lieut. Sinclair; Lord Townshend comes on shore, sees his men parading the streets of Norfolk, with the American flag: makes application to the authority there, through the British Consul, for the delivery of them, without effect. One of the men would willingly have returned with him, had he not been prevented by the unfortunate man, who on Monday last suffered for his crime. He finally applies to Lieutenant Sinclair, and offers, if permitted to go into the rendezvous, to point out the men, but obtains no satisfaction, and receives the evasive, prevaricating answer, that he knew of no men who had entered, of the names his Lordship mentioned.

The American sloop of war, *Wasp*, which sailed the beginning of June, with the President's objections to the pending Treaty, as an additional proof of friendly intention, carried with her three British deserters.

A number of men deserted from the respective ships named in the Admiral's Order, and in no instance have they been given up in consequence of the applications made for them, but have been encouraged and harboured in their desertion, and the most of them entered into the American Naval service.

In short, the desertions from our Squadron in the Chesapeake have been regularly and systematically encouraged, and in too many instances, has insult been added to injury. And, yet, says Mr. Jefferson "this enormity was without provocation, or justifiable cause."

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