

BY THE HONORABLE  
GEORGE CRANFIELD BERKELEY,

*Vice-Admiral of the White, and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed in the River St. Lawrence, along the Coast of Nova-Scotia, the Islands of St. John and Cape Breton, the Bay of Fundy, and at, and about, the Island of Bermuda, or Somers' Islands.*

**W**HEREAS many Seamen, Subjects of His Britannic Majesty, and serving in His Majesty's Ships and Vessels, as per margin, while at anchor in the Chesapeake, deserted and entered on board the United States frigate the Chesapeake, and openly paraded the streets of Norfolk, in sight of their Officers, under the American flag, protected by the Magistrates of the town, and the recruiting-officer belonging to the above-mentioned American frigate; which Magistrates and Naval Officer, refused giving them up, although demanded by His Britannic Majesty's Consul, as well as the Captains of the Ships from which the said Men had deserted:—The Captains and Commanders of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels under my Command, are, therefore, hereby required and directed, in case of meeting with the American frigate Chesapeake, at Sea, and without the limits of the United States, to shew to the Captain of her this Order, and to require to search his Ship for the Deserters from the before-mentioned Ships, and to proceed and search for the same; and if a similar demand should be made by the American, he is to be permitted to search for any Deserters from their Service, according to the customs and usage of civilized Nations, on terms of peace and amity with each other.

GIVEN under my Hand at HALIFAX,  
Nova-Scotia, the 1st day of June, 1807.  
G. C. BERKELEY.

(Signed)

To  
The respective Captains and Commanders  
of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels on  
the North America Station.

\* *Belleisle, Bellona, Triumph, Chichester, Halifax, and Zenobia, (Cutter.)*

The above Order of the Admiral, under which Capt. Humphreys acted, clearly shews, that it was not two or three Men he was in quest of, but Deserters from His Majesty's Ships, Belleisle, Bellona, Triumph, Chichester, Halifax, and Zenobia, (Cutter.)

The facts developed in the interesting Trial of Jenkin Ratford, shew, beyond all controversy, that Desertions from his Majesty's Ships in the Chesapeake, have been most shamefully encouraged, and that the conduct of the American Officers employed in their recruiting service, has