

to restore one on application accompanied with the usual evidence. If the injustice so often charged upon the government had in fact existed, our vessels would have been stripped of their crews, and our commerce have languished for want of seamen.

But let the administration with its partizans exaggerate these evils ; let them be represented as so intolerable or disgraceful as to justify a war ; a reply is not wanting which, if honour or shame had not lost their power, would silence them forever. Mr. Munroe actually provided for the security of our seamen, as far as it is practicable, by an informal but honorary arrangement in the year 1806 ; but as this did not, in point of form, constitute a part of the treaty, it was, chiefly for this cause, indignantly rejected by Mr. Jefferson, without submitting it to the constitutional tribunal of the country. Yet the same administration instructed the same minister, by the very letter which gave him notice of the rejection of the treaty, to enter into informal stipulations on this subject, as well as all others confided to his management. This strange inconsistency, this captious trifling with the interests of the nation, this irritating and perverse temper, are all chargeable to the same administration which, from that day to this, have not failed to make the subject of impressment the bitter ingredient in all their attempts at amicable adjustment. Mr. Pinkney was especially instructed to connect it with the affair of the Chesapeake ; and as often as other grounds of complaint have been in danger of being removed, this has been inserted into the discussion to make defeat certain. It is a subject so impenetrable, by reason or argument ; it is so much connected with our impulses and passions ; it gives a hostile administration so strong a hold upon the public