

In *language*, by a letter dated February 16, 1810, he told us, "the Americans cannot *hesitate* as to the part which *they are to take*. They ought to tear to pieces the act of their independence, or to take measures to prevent their commerce being taxed by England, which renders them more dependent than the colony of Jamaica, which has at least its assembly of representatives, and its privileges. Men without political views, *without honour*, without energy, may allege, &c."

Though some little symptoms, transient publick symptoms of sensibility were discovered on this occasion, yet no apology has ever been made, and the subject was suffered to slumber in oblivion, never again to be revived.

But the rage of his majesty did not evaporate in words. In defiance of the *laws of all civilized society*, by a decree at Rambouillet, he confiscated all American vessels which had entered his ports at any time within six months *next preceding* the decree. Of the amount of this plunder, we have no other evidence than the declaration of Gen. Armstrong, who knowing the emperor's character, said there was no hope of restoration, as the amount was 20 millions of dollars—a sum too large to restore even to the rightful owners!! About this period too, the emperor invented a *new mode*, (as Jefferson mildly characterized it), "of exercising *might contrary to right*." In violation of the settled principles of maritime law, his cruisers had orders to burn on the high seas all neutral vessels whom they should find trading with the enemy. This practice has continued down to the *present* year. The very last French squadron which scoured the seas, Feretier's, was more ferocious than any former one. This was the *last gentle* hint to our delaying counsels. This was the immediate precursor of an alliance with France, and a compliance with the emperor's views. Could it be believed if we had not seen it, that a president, who upon every occasion presents the whole picture of British wrongs, including *those settled and compromised*, as well as others, should have neglected for seven years to mention in *one single instance* to congress, these reiterated acts of piracy of France?

But the darkest, and most dreadful part of the picture of partiality for France and contempt for our understandings is to be exhibited.

In 1810, the United States having offered to withdraw their restrictive measures from either of the nations which should cease to violate our neutral rights leaving them in force as to the other, the president declared solemnly, that it was not his intention to give France this benefit until she not only should repeal her decrees, but should restore the property "*unjustly surprized in her ports*." I use his own words.

Nevertheless, upon the Duc de Cadore's promise, conditional promise, that the decrees would be repealed on certain terms on the first of November, 1810, though accompanied with a declaration that the "property, unjustly surprized" would not be restored, the President, directly against his own assurance, declared the decrees *actually repealed*.