

exception required by the intermediary statute of 1 Geo. I. C. 4. of all naturalized subjects from becoming members of parliament, or of the privy council. It is twice mentioned by Blackstone, who asserts such foreign seamen to be *ipso facto* naturalized; and is stated by some of our latest authorities to be the law of the land at this day.

Now, I beg you to read a second and third time this letter of the law. I wish your readers would give themselves the trouble to place a blank sheet of paper before them, and write down their ideas of the nature of the invitation, and the extent of the pledge here proffered to the foreign seaman, before they look to any comment upon it from my pen, or from any other source: and if they do not find the nation pledged to protect the men so invited—if they do not find “the rights of a natural born subject actually a native within the kingdom of Great Britain” to include the protection due to such in the very act to which the adopted seaman is invited, I shall only say they see with other eyes than mine.—Words cannot be stronger; no sophistry can change them: and if it were possible, by any distorted construction of them, to pervert their logical meaning, it would only follow that a trap has been laid for these poor fellows for above a century, in which they have been led to believe themselves under the protection of the mighty arm of Britain, against that forfeiture of their lives to their former governments, which they must have incurred in any other character than that of British subjects.

We have accused the Americans of enticing our seamen into their service; but we look in vain in the statute book of the United States for any such enticement as this.¹ And while our navigation act has been so relaxed as to admit a large majority of foreign seamen into our mercantile marine, and our navy has been half manned with foreigners—foreigners, with whose parent states we were actually at war, we have been issuing proclamations, threatening our

¹ The sailor there, indeed, has less inducement to naturalization than any other subject; since from the itinerant nature of his profession he cannot, without great inconvenience, perform the five years' previous residence that the law requires. They have not amounted to an average of sixty in the year.