

prisoner on board his Majesty's ship *Bellona*, I have to request you will be pleased to direct a Court Martial may be assembled for the purpose of trying the said Jenkin Ratford, for the within mentioned charges of *Mutiny, Desertion, and Contempt*.

I have the honour to remain,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
J. TOWNSHEND.

To the Hon. G. C. Berkeley, Vice Admiral }
of the White, and Commander in Chief, }
Es. Es. Es. Halifax, N. S. }

The Evidence were then withdrawn.

The Right Honourable Lord James Townshend, sworn.

Q. Relate to the Court what comes within your knowledge of the charges against the prisoner ?

A. At the time of the prisoners deserting, I was on board the *Mermaid* ; on hearing a firing of musketry kept up from the ship, about six o'clock in the evening, on the 7th of March, I immediately returned on board, when Lieutenant Carter informed me, that five men had rose on Mr. Turner, midshipman, and deserted with the jolly boat. The next morning, I sent Lieutenant Marsters to Norfolk, to acquaint Captain Hollis and the British Consul of the desertion of the men ; on his return, he reported to me that he had seen some of them, one in particular, Richard Hubert, parading the streets, with the American flag, then recruiting for the Chesapeake. I then went up myself to Norfolk, and told the British Consul ; and finding that the men had entered for the Chesapeake, I applied to Lieutenant Sinclair, who was entering men for her, and received for answer, that there were no men entered for them by the names I gave ; but if any deserters had entered, I must apply to the magistrates ; which I did, through the Consul, who, I believe, applied to the Mayor and Civil Power. I also applied to Capt. Decatur, who referred me to Lieut. Sinclair : but I met with no success in recovering the men. I met the prisoner, with Saunders, the Boatswain's mate, after my application, and asked them the reason they did not return to the ship. Saunders said he would ; and immediately went with me about twenty yards, when the prisoner