

that a man should be allowed to lift his parricidal hands against the country that gave him birth, and has done him no wrong, appears to me, at least, as repugnant to natural law, as that he should be restrained from the legitimate pursuit of subsistence within bounds that nature never proscribed.

I have seen a pamphlet, which from the source it comes from, and the countenance given to it, may be supposed to contain the whole pretensions of the American Government on this subject: perhaps something more than the chief magistrate of that country would advocate. The work is entitled "Expatriation;" and I have no hesitation in saying that the author appears to me very far from having made out his case. It is due, however, to the candor expressed in the work itself to observe, that it invites discussion, with the diffidence becoming a man who admits that he is exploring a sort of *terra incognita*, and is willing to be availed of the lights of any fellow traveller in the same region. But it is the less necessary to occupy your columns with a controversy on the general question, as I am afraid it will appear that whatever right other nations may have to repel its pretensions, we have none.

In the Statute of 6. Anne, C. 37, S. 20, I find the following strong invitation of foreign seamen into our service:

"And for the better encouraging foreign mariners and seamen to come and serve on board ships belonging to the kingdom of Great Britain; be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that every such foreign mariner or seaman, who shall, from and after the said 25th day of April, have faithfully served on board any of her Majesty's ships of war, or any privateer, or merchant, or trading ship or ships, vessel or vessels, which, at the time of such service, shall belong to any of her Majesty's subjects of Great Britain, for the space of two years, shall, to all intents and purposes, be deemed and taken to be a natural born subject of his Majesty's kingdom of Great Britain, and have and enjoy all the privileges, powers, rights, and capacities, which such foreign mariner, or seaman could, should, or ought to have had and enjoyed in case he had been a natural born subject of her Majesty, and actually a native within the kingdom of Great Britain."

The same privilege is re-enacted, 13. Geo. II. C. 3. with the