

our friendship, they will even facilitate to us the means of relieving our oppressed citizens. The subject of our impressed seamen makes a part of your instructions; but the president now renews his desire that their relief may engage your special attention. I am, sir, &c.

(Signed) TIMOTHY PICKERING.

*Rufus King, Esq. &c. &c.*

*Extract of a letter from Mr. Pickering, under the direction of president Washington, to Mr. King, dated*

“Department of State, October 26, 1796.

“I think it is mentioned in your instructions that the British naval officers often impress Swedes, Danes and other foreigners, from the vessels of the United States: *They have even sometimes impressed Frenchmen.* If there should be time to make out a copy of a protest lately received, it shall be enclosed, describing the impress of a Dane, and a Portuguese. This surely is an abuse easy to correct.— They cannot pretend an inability to distinguish these foreigners from their own subjects; and they may with as much reason rob American vessels of the property or merchandize of Swedes, Danes and Portuguese, as seize and detain in their service the subjects of those nations found on board American vessels. The president is extremely anxious to have this business of impresses placed on a reasonable footing.”

*Extract of a letter from Mr. Pickering, secretary of state, under the direction of president Adams, to Silas Talbot, Esq. dated*

“Department of State, August 15, 1797.

“I was pleased with your success in obtaining relief for so many American seamen, as mentioned in your several letters: but your last, containing the orders of Admiral Parker to his captains *no longer to obey the writs of habeas corpus,* gave me much uneasiness. Yesterday I gave those letters to the British minister Mr. Liston; and wish he may do something to afford you a prospect of further success: but I fear, notwithstanding he is perfectly well disposed to administer relief, that his remonstrances or re-