

By the laws of France, ever since the reign of Louis XIV. all French seamen are classed, and there are regular officers appointed to enrol and license them—without such an enrolment, no man can exercise even the boat or fishing navigation. Thus the government knows every man in its marine service, for every man who is a sailor, is considered as being a part of the marine. In time of *peace*, no man is permitted to ship a sailor, without carrying him to the bureau or office of the class in which he is enrolled, and there getting him inscribed on his roll of equipage.—In time of *war*, the commissaries of the classes themselves are forbidden to let any seaman be shipped either for the fishery, commerce or privateering, unless such seaman shall have his *congé*, or dismissal from the publick marine. Thus, in time of war, France commands *every* seaman in her dominions. Having thus explained the general police relative to seamen, I shall now proceed to the various statutes or ordinances which prove the points I have above stated. 1st. The laws of France deny the right of expatriation, and go farther than G. Britain, because they make the serving on board the vessels of other nations, whether *enemies or not*, a *crime*.

By an edict of February, 1650, all masters of vessels, being French subjects, are forbidden, whether they are domiciliated in France or not, that is, whether they have acquired another domicile or home in a foreign country or not, to take commissions from, or use any other flag than that of France, under the penalty of being treated as pirates.

By an edict of August, 1676, the pain of death, which had been before inflicted upon all the subjects of France, found in the service of foreign states or princes, was changed for that of *service in the galleys for life*.

This last edict is very clear, and from its language it is manifest, that, whether taken in *arms or not*, against their own sovereign, they are liable to this punishment.

By an edict of October, 1784, it is provided, that, "Any classed seamen, who shall in time of peace be found serving in foreign ships shall be sentenced to fifteen days confinement, and reduced to the lowest wages, and shall serve two years extraordinary at the lowest rate; but those who in time of war shall be ARRESTED IN foreign ships, or passing into foreign countries, shall be sentenced to three years service in the galleys."

By the same edict, "It is made the duty of the chiefs or heads of the department of classed seamen, to make search for the deserters from merchant service, to arrest them and send them to the officers of the admiralty. They shall also make known to the admiralty any classed seamen, who HAVING PASSED into foreign countries shall have been arrested."

I have given a literal translation of the parts of these two passages which apply to the case, because this last edict was passed in a time of profound peace, in the reign of Louis XVI. and is still in force.

It not only fully justifies my first position, that France denies that her seamen can expatriate themselves, even in time of peace,