

are said to have avowed to ours, before she sailed, that they were instructed to obtain these men by force if they were not given up. Our own officer after having resolved to defend his ship, ought to have nailed his flag to the mast, and to have sunk his adversary, or to have gone down himself with his flag undishonoured. It is the disgrace which this conduct seems to fix upon us, which makes us feel so pungently.

Had Capt. Barron vindicated our national honour as he ought to have done, we should have seen this affair in a very different light. We should have acknowledged that we were wrong in the principle of *enlisting their seamen*, but we *might have* added, that no nation shall insult our flag with impunity: we need not indeed have *said* this; the fact would speak a plainer language.

After the colours of the United States ship had been struck, the British officers proceeded to search for their deserters.

The result of this search was this:—they found Jenkin Ratford, one of the *seamen demanded*—and John Strachan, Daniel Martin, and William Ware, *three other deserters*, whom they did not suspect had been enlisted; who were not contained in the order of Admiral Berkeley, but who are admitted by *our Government* to have been deserters from the British frigate *Melampus*. These men were no more the cause of the attack, than if the British had found an *anchor on board*, which had been *stolen* from their ship, but which they could never *expect* to find on board one of our publick ships. They also found twelve other British seamen, who not being *deserters*, they suffered to remain. It turned out therefore, that there were on board the *Chefapeake*, when she was at Washington, five British deserters from the *Halifax*, three deserters from the *Melampus*, and twelve other British seamen.

The British officers took away the *single seaman* whom they found of those *demanded*, and the three other *deserters* from the *Melampus*, whom they were not *ordered* to take, because they were not known to have been on board.

The astonishment and indignation of every American was excited soon after, by the President's declaration, "that the seamen demanded had been previously ascertained to be *native citizens* of the

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