

The United States sincerely wished to be at peace. Each of the belligerents accused us of partiality ; and wherein was that partiality ? Simply in this ; France declared that we suffered the robberies of England with more patience, than *she* ; and England, that *she* alone had a right to plunder *us*. Each seemed to consider it as a previous condition of rendering us justice, that we should compel her adversary to respect our rights. In this singular situation, it appeared the wisest course to withdraw entirely from the ocean. Experience soon taught us that our embargo system could not be carried into effect, for reasons which it is unnecessary to repeat. The restrictive system was substituted ; we placed it in the power of either of the wrong doers, to make us the open enemy of the other, unless that other renounced his practices. Napoleon was the first to announce, " a sense of returning justice ;" our government, the suffering party, declared itself satisfied. *England had shown no such sense of returning justice*, on this occasion ; she had promised to repeal her orders, provided the French decrees were rescinded, but refused to take the official declaration of the French minister, although we had, in a similar case, before accepted her own, and positively refused to repeal the orders in council, in default of evidence *that the French were disposed to treat us well*. I do not think it necessary to enter into a discussion of the question of *partiality* to France or England, or Spain or Algiers, although I cannot but regard, as exceedingly strange, that any one of these powers, should insist upon it as a preliminary step to accommodation, that we should punish the aggressions of any other nation. The meaning of both was obvious enough ; it was that we should take part in the affairs of Europe. England supposed that we could do her service, and Napoleon thought we could injure England.

In the meantime, the loss of American property by the depredations of the belligerents, had been immense. The vexations practised by the British cruisers off our coast, who made it a point to harass the issuing and returning commerce of the United States, and which the people of