

they may be, for not an instance has been recorded of their plucking out an eye from the head, or plunging a dagger into the heart, of any of the perpetrators of the double crime of robbery and murder by impressment, that have fallen into their power. And where they have sunk a cruiser, they have taken the tenderest care of the officers, as well as of the crew. We have done wisely indeed to turn them out of the men of war when we discovered that they were not invincible: but even those on board the *Guerriere*, that refused to fight, and sat with their arms folded on deck, while limbs and balls were flying about their heads, took no advantage of the event that brought their oppressors into their power. There is, indeed, a morality about the American seamen which is not to be found in that class of men in other countries, except a few of our own from the north, who have seen in the *Cotter's* saturday-night, a symptom of the same kind of education; still it is wonderful, with the opportunities they have had of avenging a wrong, which has its only parallel, if indeed it be a parallel, in the atrocious murder of the *Duc d' Enghien*, that no instance has been found of their stepping out of the line of discipline to do it; but that on every occasion their enmity has ceased with the lowering of our flag.

To return to the question of naturalization. It is important to observe that the best advocates for our rights over our own subjects are to be found in the Committee of Congress, appointed to report on the question; and the best hope for a disposition to accommodate on the part of the United States, in the law already passed, on the suggestion of Lord Castlereagh to Mr. Russell, (that the engagement of the executive government of the United States was not sufficient) whereby all the branches of that government have engaged to discontinue the naturalization of our seamen at the end of the present war.¹ I say it is important to make this observation; for though this law, passed the 3d of March, 1813, was duly promulgated in all the papers of the United States, and, I believe, tucked in small print into one of our own, it is as little known as our acknowledgment beforementioned, that the American Government had disavowed Buonaparte's principles of maritime law.

My next will take up the subject of the *Henry Plot*.

¹ They cannot be naturalized during the war; as alien enemies are excepted in the American law of naturalization.

To be continued in our next.