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.....
*His Majesty's Sloop Halifax,
Halifax Harbour, 15th August, 1807.*

SIR,

I BEG leave to represent to you, that the five men named in the margin,* belonging to His Majesty's sloop Halifax, under my command, when sent with a petty officer in the jolly boat, in Hampton Roads, on the 7th of March last, to weigh a kedge anchor, which had been previously dropped for the purpose of swinging the ship by, taking the advantage of the dusk of the evening, mutined upon the petty officer, some of them threatening to murder him, but, the rest interfering they desisted; however, taking the boat under their own command, they succeeded in deserting, by landing at Sewel's Point.

The whole of the above mentioned deserters, I have since been informed, entered on board the United States frigate Chesapeake, and were seen by me, and several of my officers, parading the streets of Norfolk in triumph, under the American flag. A few days after the desertion, I accosted one of these men, Henry Saunders, asking the reason of his deserting, and received for answer, that he did not intend any thing of the kind, but was compelled by the rest to assist, and would embrace the first opportunity of returning. At that moment, Jenkin Ratford, one of the said deserters, coming up, took the arm of the said Henry Saunders, declaring with an oath, that neither he, or any of the rest of the deserters, should return to this ship, and, with a contemptuous gesture, told me he was in the Land of Liberty, and instantly dragged the said Henry Saunders away.

Finding that my expostulating any longer, would not only be useless in obtaining the deserters, but, in all probability, have collected a mob of Americans, who, no doubt, would have proceeded to steps of violence, I instantly repaired to the house of Colonel Hamilton, (the British Consul there) and related every circumstance which occurred, and applied to him, as also, to Lieutenant Sinclair of the rendezvous for the United States service, to recover the said deserters, but without effect.

Being since informed that Jenkin Ratford has been recovered, in action, on board the United States frigate Chesapeake, with His Britannic Majesty's ship Leopard, and now a

* Rich. Hubert, Henry Saunders, Jenkin Ratford, Geo. North, Wm. Hill.

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