

celebrated "Berlin and Milan Decrees." They were most restrictive and prohibitory as to the British foreign trade, especially with European powers, and the United States of America, whose commerce had increased with amazing rapidity, although then only in the twenty-third year of their independence. By way of retaliation, and for the protection of her commerce, and for other political purposes, the British Government published "Orders of Council," also restrictive as to the trade of neutrals with France, and other Powers in hostility with Great Britain. For strictly carrying these orders into effect, Judges of Vice Admiralty Courts, of the highest ability, were appointed in the British colonies; and Alexander Croke, L. L. D., one of the most learned and eminent advocates in the High Court of Admiralty, was appointed as judge of the Vice Admiralty Court in Halifax. About the same time, Mr. Jeffrey came as Collector of the Customs. The orders in Council speedily produced abundant results, in the seizure by the British Naval Cruisers of a large number of vessels, charged with trading with France, in contravention of those orders, and of the general national laws and regulations regarding trade between neutrals and belligerents. The commerce of the United States chiefly and extensively suffered by those seizures. In 1805 their vessels trading with France and her possessions, and those of her allies and supporters, and especially the vessels running between France, the United States, and the Spanish Provinces in South America, were, day after day, being brought into this port, and libelled in the Admiralty Court. In that year I resided in a board-