

at high wages men of any description are to be procured to man the merchant vessels.

The common enquiry now is, What is become of these people? The natural answer will be, that having been neglected and left destitute, they have either sought other employments, or have fled to some other country, where they expect to be better treated than at home; and should their services be called into action by their new friends, (which Heaven forbid they should, against their native country) not a man of them will be taken alive, but all will perish before they will yield to enemies who ought to have been their friends.

It is unnecessary, however, to enlarge or dwell upon a painful subject, or to mourn the errors of past events, which, having been committed, cannot be prevented. But truth demands a fair statement of facts, and it is sometimes of importance to show how past evils might have been averted by common prudence, or by just and wise policy. The exposition of evils and errors that have happened may also prevent their recurrence in future; and, whatever pains may be taken to conceal them, they will not escape the penetration of those who have the power, although, it is to be hoped, not the inclination to take advantage of their occurrence.