

all power of restoring the relations of friendly intercourse between the two states, so far, at least, as concerned their commercial intercourse, until Congress should re-assemble.'

The law here referred to put an end to those powers for restoring the intercourse which the President had in vain exerted for years, and which were incompatible with a state of war. No encouragement could be entertained in America at that time to hope for a revocation of the Orders in Council. It was five days after the declaration of war in America that those orders were revoked in England, and not a symptom of relaxation, but the strongest pledges to the contrary were exhibited till within a week of that revocation in England, and till the last hour of the declaration of War and even after that declaration, by your Minister here.—The very document, from which you draw this construction of the President, recommends the adoption of an equitable mode of preventing any inconvenience to individuals from your unexpected retreat.

32d Par.—“The President of the United States has, it is true, since proposed to Great Britain an Armistice; not, however, on the admission, that the cause of war hitherto relied on was removed; but on condition, that Great Britain, as a preliminary step, should do away a cause of war, now brought forward as such for the first time: namely, that she should abandon the exercise of her undoubted right of search, to take from American merchant vessels British seamen, the natural born subjects of his Majesty; and this concession was required upon a mere assurance that laws would be enacted by the Legislature of the United States, to prevent such seamen from entering into their service. But independent of the objection to an exclusive reliance on a foreign state, for the conservation of so vital an interest, no explanation was, or could be afforded by the agent who was charged with this overture, either as to the main principles upon which such laws were to be founded, or as to the provisions which it was proposed they should contain.”

In reply to paragraph 30, we have shown some of the precious effects of the practice which it is here attempted to defend. It remains only to add the propositions that were made, us many years ago, when Mr. Monroe was our Minister in England, and which have never yet been withdrawn.—We then offered to enter into engagements to allow of no protection to British seamen; but on the contrary, to deliver them up whenever they sought refuge among us.—To aid in searching for, seizing, and restoring them; and to enact laws for this purpose; to keep them in our prisons when thereunto required, and to prohibit our citizens, under adequate penalties, from carrying them off or employing them. All this was proffered by our Government for an exemption from that seizure upon the high seas of all persons not liable thereto by the laws of Nations, which could not in the case supposed attach on any British sailor. For our naturalized citizens, comprising few, if any of this class of men, and none that have not become so by three years' longer residence among us than is required for the same privilege with you, we ask only the protection which you extend to your own.