

own minister no apology can be made for this compliment to the upright views of *France*, and it must be admitted to have proceeded solely from a devotion to that Court.

It was the more extraordinary, as it is apparent from the tenor of the *Berlin* decree, that it could have no possible operation except upon the commerce of the United States.

We were the only nation which then visited the ports of *England* :— We were the only people on whom the blockade could operate ; and to admit an interpretation, which rendered the decree absurd and nugatory, is unequivocal proof of a disposition to submit to the grossest deception from the Cabinet of *St. Cloud*.

This very letter of Mr. MADISON, contains the most perfect proof that our government did not, and could not have believed the interpretation given informally by Mr. DEGRES, sincere.—For it contains an admission that the French cruisers in the *West-Indies* had enforced the decree against us, and that these depredations constituted just claims of redress.—Have any of these captured ships been restored ? If they have, shew us the case and the decision.

This letter, it will be remarked, is dated May 22d, 1807, and is a full and perfect refutation of an assertion in the report of the committee of congress, just made, recommending a perseverance in our hostile measures. In that report it is stated, that the *Horizon* was the first case which had occurred of the extension of the *Berlin* decree to us, and that that decree did not take place till September, 1807.

If it be said, that the *West-India* cases were only the acts of inferior courts, we may ask whether they have been in any single instance reversed ?

We would also enquire why it is, that Mr. Armstrong's remonstrances on this subject are suppressed ? And whether he has ever made any complaint, or whether, as in another case, he thought the “ application would not only be useless, but *injurious* ?”

This recalls to our recollection a former instance of subserviency to *France*, in which one of our ministers told the cabinet of *France*, that we should not only bear the departure from our stipulated rights “ with patience, but with pleasure.”

We should not have recurred to this ancient proof of devotion to the views of *France*, if it had not furnished a fair and natural occasion to remark, that a set of men, who in 1795 could justify and defend the outrageous and unmasked profligacy of *France*, in its conduct toward us, could not be expected to discover any considerable degree of spirit, against her, now her power is so vastly increased.

The second letter is from Mr. Madison to Gen. Armstrong, and its features are still more strongly marked with servility and devotion to *France*. It acknowledges the receipt of the evidence of the violation, not only of our treaty, but of every principle of humanity, in the con-