

peake, was solely occasioned by the demand of two or three seamen, who before the sailing of the Chesapeake, had been clearly ascertained to be citizens of the United States?

Would it be supposed, for a moment, that the following Order of the Honourable Vice Admiral BERKELEY, a copy of which was delivered to Commodore BARRON, could have been in his possession? Or, can it be imagined that Commodore BARRON, in making his Report to the President of this transaction, should have omitted to make that Order a part of his Report?

BY THE HONOURABLE
GEORGE CRANFIELD BERKELEY,

Vice Admiral of the White, and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed in the River St. Lawrence, along the Coast of Nova-Scotia, the Islands of St. John and Cape Breton, the Bay of Fundy, and at, and about the Islands of Bermuda, or Somers' Islands.

WHEREAS many Seamen, Subjects of His Britannic Majesty, and serving in his Majesty's ships and vessels, as per margin,* while at anchor in the Chesapeake, deserted and entered on board the United States frigate the Chesapeake, and openly paraded the streets of Norfolk, in sight of their Officers under the American flag, protected by the magistrates of the town, and the recruiting officer belonging to the above mentioned American frigate; which magistrates and naval Officer, refused giving them up, although demanded by His Britannic Majesty's Consul, as well as the Captains of the ships from which the said men had deserted: The Captains and Commanders of His Majesty's ships and vessels under my command, are, therefore, hereby required and directed, in case of meeting with the American frigate Chesapeake at sea, and without the limits of the United States, to shew to the Captain of her this Order, and to require to search his ship for the deserters from the before mentioned ships, and to proceed and search for the same; and if a similar demand should be made by the American, he is to be permitted to search for any deserters from their service, according to the customs and usage

* Belleisle, Bellona, Triumph, Chichester, Halifax, and Zenobia, (Cutlar)