

That to obtain a discharge from the navy, by purchase, the sum of eighty pounds sterling is required by the admiralty, which together with other expences, amount to twenty times the original bounty, and is equal to all that a seaman can save, with the most rigid economy, during the average period in which he is capable of service; that this sum is demanded alike from men of all ages and of all lengths of servitude; from those pensioned for wounds, and also from those invalided for harbor duty; thus converting the funds of Greenwich and the reward of former services into a means of recruiting the navy; that such is the horror which seamen have of this useless prolongation of their captivity, that those who are able, in order to escape from it, actually return into the hands of government all those fruits of their toil which formerly they looked to as the means of some little comfort in their old age.

That besides these capital grievances, tending to perpetuate the impress service, there are others worthy the serious attention of this house.

That the petty officers and seamen on board of his majesty's ships and vessels of war, though absent or foreign stations for many years, receive no wages until their return home, and are of course deprived of the comforts which those wages, paid at short intervals, would procure them; that this is now more severely felt, owing to the recent practice of postponing declarations of war until long after the war has been actually begun; by which means the navy is deprived under the name of droits, of the first fruits and greatest proportion of the prize money to which they have heretofore been entitled; and thus, and by the examinations of the courts of admiralty, the proportion of captures which at last devolves to the navy is much too small to produce those effects which formerly were so beneficial to the country; that while their wages are withheld from them abroad, when paid at home, which, to prevent desertion, usually takes place on the day before they sail out again, having no opportunity to go on shore, they are compelled to buy slops of Jews on board, or receive them from government 15 per cent higher than their acknowledged value; and being paid