

er is in a condition so manifestly superior in point of force as to give him a right to dictate the conditions of an armistice—Thus we have seen Bonaparte often insisting, as for instance, to the king of Sardinia, after the battle at Coni, and to Austria before the treaty of Campo Formio, on terms which any equal and unsubdued foe would have spurned—In all such cases we consider it the language of a haughty master to a humble and conquered enemy. We believe that the annals of modern Europe cannot exhibit a case, where between two parties perfectly equal, and before the chances of war had been tried, terms totally devoid of reciprocity have been demanded—Much less could any man conceive, that the rulers of seven millions of people, not inured to war, with six frigates, and ten thousand ill-disciplined, raw and inexperienced troops, would demand, as a condition of a mere *suspension* of hostilities, the relinquishment of a right exercised for four centuries from an old powerful nation comprising sixteen millions of people, with 300,000 regular troops, and 400 ships of war.

Yet such a case we undertake to shew has Mr. Madison for the first time exhibited.—The orders in council and blockades having been removed as it is now confessed to the satisfaction of our cabinet, the practice of Great-Britain of reclaiming her *own native seamen*, a practice which we shall shew under our third division to have been coeval with the existence of her marine, and a practice uniformly adopted by all other nations, especially by America and her ally France, this ancient practice was the only remaining ground of war, and the only source of dispute between the two countries.

Great-Britain claims it as a *right*—we contend that it is a *wrong* done to us. Now Mr. Madison asks as a condition of even a suspension of arms, and as the very commencement of negotiation, that Great-Britain shall relinquish the exercise of this which she claims as a right—"We will not hear you," says Mr. Madison, "till you give up your claim, and then we will treat with you about the justice of it, or the modes of indemnifying you for giving it up."

The first question is, did Mr. Madison make this monstrous and preposterous claim? Could he insult any nation, however feeble, by such a preliminary proposition?

One man says, I do not understand the demand in this light—another says, Mr. Monroe explained and took it back in a subsequent letter, which by the way was not written till six days before the message.

A third gentleman with honest zeal exclaims, it is not possible Mr. Madison could have been guilty of playing so broad a farce!

I shall prove by unquestionable evidence that such a proposition was made, for which no equivalent was offered to Great-Britain.

In Mr. Monroe's instructions to Mr. Russell, dated June 26th, eight days after the declaration of war, he authorizes and directs him as follows: "If the orders in council are repealed and no illegal blockades substituted to them, and *orders are given to dis-*