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COLONIAL PRIVATEERS IN THE WAR OF 1812.

By MR. ERNEST CRUIKSHANK.

Although the Liverpool Packet was by far the most successful and renowned of all British-American private-armed vessels, several others seem to have been handled during the contest with almost an equal degree of skill and audacity. Colonial merchants were the principal sufferers from hostilities, and they naturally turned their attention to the simplest and most direct means of re-imbursing themselves for their losses. Accordingly, in a few months after the declaration of war, privateers were fitted out at St. John, N.B., and St. John's, Newfoundland, as well as at Halifax and Liverpool, N.S., and others were equipped at Antigua, Jamaica, St. Christopher and Nassau.

The policy pursued by the Government of the United States tended to provide for the security of its merchant shipping by endeavouring to withdraw it from the ocean altogether before the commencement of hostilities. On the 4th of April, 1812, an Act was passed laying an embargo upon all vessels in its ports, except those engaged in the coasting trade, for the next ninety days. But the extravagant prices offered for breadstuffs and other natural products