

three Deserters from His Majesty's Ship *Melampus*, (a Ship not named in the Admiral's Order, but coming within the spirit of it) were also found on board, and very properly taken out by Captain Humphreys.

How can Commodore Barron look honorable men in the face after a disclosure like this?—It was in the open view of the Universe, putting the seal to all the former evasive, prevaricating answers, that our Officers had received on application for their Deserters:—Nor can all the waters of Lethe blot out the disgrace.

If the American Government, had, in sincerity and good faith, issued the order forbidding Deserters from British Ships to be enlisted on board the *Chesapeake*, would not Mr. Jefferson have instantly ordered a Court of Enquiry, to know why that order had been disobeyed, and to find out the culprits who had dared, by their disobedience, of so salutary a regulation, to involve two Countries in a contest, the great mass of the inhabitants of which sincerely wish to be at peace with each other?—Has any such measure been adopted, or any disclosure of the circumstances which led to this transaction, been made by the American Government?—And are not many of the American papers loud in their complaints, at the mysterious secrecy observed on this occasion?—Does it not look too much like a design to push the public mind, blind-folded, to extremities?

If doubt can still remain in the mind of any person, whether Commodore Barron knew that the men who were taken out of his Ship, were British Deserters, we copy the following extracts from their own voluntary confessions:

*John Strachan*, after giving an account of his Desertion from the *Melampus*, the first of February, in company with Ware, Martin and Little, says, "they went to Norfolk, where he, Martin, and Ware, entered for the *Chesapeake*,—that he knew the faces of several Englishmen on board the *Chesapeake*, but did not know their names—that Commodore Barron promised to protect him."

*William Ware*, says, "that when they came before Commodore Barron, at the Naval-Yard at Washington, he promised to protect them, although they were Deserters from an English Man of War."

*Jenkin Ratford*, before his execution, acknowledged, "that he was born in London, that he voluntarily entered into His Majesty's Service—that he deserted in the jolly-boat of the *Halifax*, in company with George North, captain of the main-top, Henry Saunders, boatswain's-mate, Richard Hubert, sail-maker, and another man whose name he did not know—that they all entered at Norfolk for the *Chesapeake* frigate, and afterwards joined her at the Federal City—that in a short time Richard Hubert ran-away, and was seen at Alexandria by some of the crew, about three days after; and that George North and Henry Saunders ran-away during the time the Ship was coming down the