

That it is an indisputable fact, that long and unlimited confinement to a ship, as well as to any other particular spot, and especially when accompanied with the diet necessarily that of ships of war, and a deprivation of the usual recreations of man, seldom fails to produce a rapid decay of the physical powers—the natural parent, in such cases, of despondency of mind.

That the late and present war against France (including a short interval of peace, in which the navy was not paid off) have lasted upwards of twenty years, and that a new naval war has recently commenced.

That the duration of the term of service in his majesty's navy is absolutely without any limitation: and that there is no mode provided for by law, for the fair and impartial discharging of men therefrom; and that, according to the present practice, decay, disease, incurable wounds, or death, can alone procure the release of any seaman, of whatever age, or whatever length of service.

That seamen who have become wholly unfit for active service, are, in place of being discharged and rewarded, according to their merits and their sufferings, transferred to ships on harbor duty, where they are placed under officers wholly unacquainted with their character and former conduct, who have no other means to estimate them, but on the scale of their remaining activity and bodily strength; where there is no distinction made between the former petty officer and the common seaman; between youth and age; and when those worn out and wounded seamen, who have spent the best part of their lives, or have lost their health in the service of their country, have to perform a duty more laborious than that of the convict felons in the dock yards; and with this remarkable distinction, that the labors of the latter have a known termination.

That though the seamen, thus transferred, and thus employed, have all been invalidated, they are permitted to re-enter ships of war on actual service: and that such is the nature of the harbor duty, that many, in order to escape from it, do so re-enter; there being no limitation as to the number of times of their being invalidated, or that of their re-entering.