

decrees, though merely retaliatory while they declare, that *few or none* of our ships could possibly escape the vigilance of the British cruisers.

Thus then from this short view, which might be extended to a variety of other examples of the difference in point of severity between the French and British orders, it is apparent, that nothing but the grossest and most wilful partiality could induce Mr. Madison, our cabinet, our foreign ministers, and the committee of Congress, to place the French and British governments on a footing of equality, or as equally meriting our resentment and hostility. But we propose to prove, that there is not the smallest pretence for the allegation that "*The French decrees can with justice be pronounced as retaliations on the conduct of the British.*"

#### No. 4.

Was France, as Mr. Madison, and the Committee of Congress in imitation of him, declare, authorized to make retaliation on Great Britain, through Neutral Commerce, *as much* as Great Britain was authorized to retaliate on France?

THIS is a most interesting question :—It decides the correctness or incorrectness of the policy of our Cabinet, who affect to treat them both alike ;—and professing to consider this subject deliberately, we invite the attention, of every true friend of our country. We are bound to yield an implicit obedience to their decisions, we trust that there is yet sufficient spirit and independence in our country to resist these arbitrary doctrines, and good sense enough to discriminate between a fair and laudable attempt to examine impartially the conduct of the two great belligerent nations, and a wish so often unjustly and illiberally charged upon us, to justify the improper conduct of either of them.

If France was, as Mr. Madison declares, as well justified as Great Britain in making retaliation through neutral commerce upon her enemy, this right must result from some one of the grounds stated by the late committee of Congress, who appear to be too much attached to France to omit any of her reasonable pretensions.

These grounds are stated to be,

*Firstly.* The attack on our rights by Great Britain in impressing American seamen.

*Secondly.* The extension of the right of blockade.—And,

*Thirdly.* The doctrine of cutting off the colonial trade, more generally known by the name of the rule of 1756.

With respect to the two first, the Committee of Congress, ashamed to show a downright submission to France, have given one answer—that even if these were wrongs, they affected principally ourselves, and were not the subject of belligerent complaint. But even on these points