

Our cabinet knew well that this state of things would take place—They knew from our minister in France, Barlow, that the French decrees had been repealed on the 28th April, 1812. This was known here before the declaration of war. They knew equally well that Great-Britain, according to her pledge, would (as she afterwards did) repeal the orders in council.—To prevent the effects which this would produce in this country, war was *previously declared*—But the repeal of the orders in council *might create* clamours for peace in the United States—Here too they had their plaister for the wound.—A proposal must be made for an armistice, and to the astonished cabinet of Great Britain, fondly anticipating the return of peace by the repeal of the orders in council, the old subject of *her claiming her own scamen*, so long and so often discussed and never before presented even as a *sine qua non* of a treaty, makes a splendid figure in the foreground, as a preliminary even to a cessation of the shedding of human blood. Such is the difference in the proposals of the two cabinets—While the one repeals her obnoxious measure, and simply claims a mutual *cessation from hostilities*; the other presents at the very threshold of negotiation, a check mate which puts a period to the game of peace—We ask Great Britain to yield, as a *preliminary*, what is well known she would not give up without a substitute, until Dearborn shall have planted his standard on the tower of London.

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NO. V.

ON THE REASONABLENESS OF THE OFFERS FOR AN ARMISTICE.

*The principles on which the practice of reclaiming their own citizens by belligerents, is founded—its antiquity, and universality.*

WE cannot decide, whether the proposals made by our cabinet were or were not reasonable, without entering into a discussion and history of the claim which they required should be surrendered as a preliminary—there is no topic *less understood*, and precisely for the reason, that it has been so long and so much talked about. Every man fancies he understands the topic of every day's discourse, and therefore gives himself no trouble about it; and every hour you meet young and old men talking most flipantly on this *universally exercised right*, without having examined any of the principles on which it is founded, any of the difficulties which attend its relinquishment by belligerents, any of the embarrassments which have been, and which we fear and believe will forever be in the way of an adjustment of it, consistently with the mutual rights and interests of America and Great-Britain. There has been another obstacle to a right comprehension of this question—It has been always treated with passion and ill temper. All nations are very jealous upon questions where