

ples of general law ;"—for I do think that in the allurements held out to the Protestants the good Queen Anne was righteous over much ; and in the special enticement of foreign seamen she displayed an evident breach of the ninth commandment ; but when it is considered that the United States derive their principles of jurisprudence from us ; when it is known that in the profusion of commendation that the chief magistrate of that country has at all times of his life bestowed upon our institutions until we flew in the face of them, this branch of our economy has stood prominent : it is surely not a subject of censure on our part that he has had the comity to adopt our notions on a moot point, though since discovered to be erroneous. If we suffer by such adoption, the fault is our own. The more severely we charge it upon him as a fault—the higher the degree of criminality we attach to him, the more deeply do we condemn ourselves.

---

—nec lex est justior ulla  
Quam necis Artifices arte perire suâ.

And having invaded the principle, we have no right to come into court with our unclean hands and claim the general law in our favor. I know it is said that we only leave the way open for those men to join us ; and that they do it at their own hazard, and of their own choice. This is not only a false but a cruel pretension ; and if it were true we should only change the character of conspirators for that of receivers of stolen goods. For if these men, *as we say of our own*, had no right to become the subjects of another state—to “transport themselves and their estates into other kingdoms,” they were robbing their masters of their services and supplies, and transferring them to us. We cannot however, with any propriety, lay even this flattering unction to our souls. We were accessories, before the fact, in the conspiracy, by the special encouragement we held out to them ; we invited them to *come* and join us ; and proffered as a lure to them that very bonus which we now say it was criminal in them to accept. Now there is no special encouragement held out to seamen or to any other particular class by the law of the United States. The naturalization law is uniform in respect to all persons desirous of becoming citizens : it combines the rights of hospitality with due caution ; and the candidates are all equally obliged to pass the ordeal of five years’