

and how cheaply they may be obtained, will see with me the necessity of new regulations in this particular, as the beginning of an amicable arrangement, for it has long been notorious that these protections are procured in the most nefarious manner. Not that the general government of the United States can always be blamed for the improper conduct of its officers; but certainly it behoves that government to remedy the evil by a stricter enquiry into the pretensions of those who demand protection, and never to grant them without the clearest proof that the claimants are native Americans.— If this were done as a previous step to all arrangements on the subject of search, it would evince a desire on the side of the American government to meet the British half way, and that they had no wish to detain our seamen, but only to escape the vexation of a search. After taking this preliminary step, they might adopt other regulations, which by securing her mariners to Great Britain, might induce her to concede the point in dispute. This might be done,

- 1st. By a navigation act;
2. By subjecting those who employ British seamen to a heavy penalty, when Great Britain is at war;
3. By readily giving up such seamen as shall still be discovered, on proper evidence being given that they are British subjects.

If a general navigation act should be thought disadvantageous to such a new country as the United States, as might be easily proved, the other modes strictly executed would be sufficient; and what prevents these and similar or better regulations from being adopted, but want of cordiality in the administration of the United States? Those who have read Mr. Munroe's able defence of himself for signing the treaty with Great Britain, will find that an informal arrangement respecting the impressment of seamen, was at the same time concluded, although there was no article respecting it in the treaty itself; how the American government rejected that arrangement is not easy to explain—certainly the British ministry made a very liberal concession. I am afraid that a want of sincerity will be discovered on the part of the American government in regard to that treaty, of which neither their own ambassadors nor the British ministry were aware. They seem to have had no desire to settle any thing finally, but to remain on the watch, ready to extort concessions from Great Britain at every favourable moment; that is, when she appeared unsuccessful, or hard pressed in the contest in which