

of peace in one of our ships of war. The rights of this country to the voluntary services of its own citizens, cannot be suspended or destroyed by foreign irregularities. — We wanted the men, and the men made their own side of the contract by a voluntary engagement in our frigate. It is necessary to observe too, that the right of our citizens to be employed in the line of their proper occupation, as mariners, cannot be suspended or destroyed by foreign irregularities. The government had offered agreeable employment, and the captured seamen had accepted it of their own accord. British impressment, odious and pernicious as it is, would be rendered infinitely more so if it could deprive this country of its right to employ its own people, and if it could deprive any class of our people, of their right to be so employed by their native country. A few such feeble and unsound suggestions, relating to a single occasion, are the whole that is opposed to the mass of truth, reason and universal public law, which composes the state paper concerning impressments. It is true, that the diplomatic letter in contemplation was written and published long before the outrage on the *Chesapeake*, but its relation to that case has rendered it a subject of the severest scrutiny, by adversary minds.

An anxious solicitude to promote the diffusion of similar truths, in regard to neutral spoliations and vexations, leads to the present attempt to place the conduct of England, in other respects, in the same just light. It is true that the learning and the strength, which ensured to our rights on the subject of impressment, an absolute demonstration, are wanted here. But the same anxiety for truth and for justice to our seamen, our merchants and our country, which moved our minister of state, may operate on a citizen, unequal to the task. At all events, he will faithfully contribute to the public cause, *the mite* he possesses.

It is well known to America and Europe (for the appeal is made with confidence to the whole civilized world) that this country, in common with other neutral states, has been extremely harrassed and injured by the conduct of Great Britain in the wars, which have been occasioned by the French revolutions. At the crisis of the apparent

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