

this Government more than four years ago, "that already the ships of war of the United States had been ordered not to receive any of them, and to discharge such as were at that time on board;"¹ although we have seen no reports of any such being found on board the *Nautilus* that fell without resistance into the hands of our men of war; nor on board the *Wasp*, whose crew, after the capture of the *Frolic*, cannot be rated inferior to any; nor on board the *United States*, where, on the contrary, the officers of the *Macedonian* are said to have made diligent scrutiny without finding a single Englishman or English boy, save one solitary lad of sixteen.—If this report be untrue; the Purser, who is in England, can contradict it.

But the obvious cause of those disasters that have lowered that Pavilion that has hitherto rode proud Autocrat of the mountain wave, is the last to be taken into the account.—We look not to the numbers of those men who have been drilled to the trade of death, on board our own Men of War, by a discipline that taught their arm to fight, while it filled their bosoms with that deliberate vengeance that renders discipline invincible. And yet to understand this, we are only to consider what we should expect from our own men, dragooned and scourged, in the same manner, on board the ships of any foreign nation in the world.—If we believe that an honest English Tar would fight on his stumps in such a case, when his legs were shot away; why should we doubt the American doing the same? One would suppose there could hardly be a want of physical strength, or moral valor, in such a man, while a vein of his body was undrained.

¹ Erskine to Canning 4th Dec. 1808.