

of the officers it was addressed to, sensible as they were that unnumbered applications for employment had been unattended to, and that it was still a time of peace; the following letter appeared in several of the public papers, as an answer to the foregoing advertisement;

*To the Right Hon. the LORDS COMMISSIONERS of
the ADMIRALTY.*

MY LORDS:

OUR scanty pittance not allowing us to enjoy the *luxury* of a newspaper either at home or abroad; chance alone has prevented us from incurring a penalty for an unknown crime. The advertisement from the Admiralty, directing us to transmit to the office our places of abode, with our "*reasons for not offering to serve at this time,*" under the penalty of being *struck off the list*, might have passed without our seeing or knowing it. We beg leave, however, thus jointly, to obey your commands; though we think the penalty, did we not comply, would be an arbitrary stretch of authority, which the laws of this country would not sanction. Our reasons for this assertion are—that we deem *scratching an officer off the list*, to be the same as *breaking him*; which cannot be done without a court-martial:—That until we are actually in full pay and employed, we
are