

Would the Commandant of Fort Nelson have thought as Mr. Jefferson does, if Captain Stopford had refused to have given up his deserters when he applied for them? Would he have been satisfied if Captain Stopford had told him, that no men of the names he inquired for were entered for his ship, if the very men were at the time, in defiance of him, parading the deck of the *Chichester*? And would it have exalted his opinion of Captain Stopford, if he had known that the names of the men had been changed by his advice, that he might be furnished with a reply so ungentlemanly and evasive?

We wish the American Naval Officers, among whom are many men of honour, to answer these questions, and candidly acknowledge what would have been their feelings had the case been reversed, and they placed in the same situation. Would they have thought, as Mr. Jefferson does, that they had no ground of offence or provocation? We are satisfied that not only they, but the feelings of all mankind will answer the question with becoming indignation.

Under these circumstances, what course was left to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Squadron on this station to pursue, but either to suffer his ships to be dismantled in the American harbours, where such *insidious hospitality* was afforded them, or to take the very step he did, by which he should not only put an immediate stop to the injury, but bring this question to a determinate issue between the two nations.

The theatre for the decision of this important question, was the most appropriate that could have been chosen, *the Open Ocean*; that the appeal and the justice of it, might not only be made to the two Nations, but to the Universe. In this Court of honour, no quibbling civilians were admitted. The complaint was simply stated in the Admiral's Order, (which we have already inserted) and transmitted to Commodore Barron, with a polite note, from Captain Humphreys.

To this demand Commodore Barron replies, "I know of no such men as you describe; the Officers that were on the recruiting service for this ship, were particularly instructed by the government, through me, not to enter deserters from His Britannic Majesty's ships; nor do I know of any being here."

The demand being made, and the reply given, the facts were completely at issue between the parties. And what was