

the British were, by the laws of war, masters of the *Impetueux*, in consequence of her having first grounded and struck in the high seas, and being there, in fact, given up to them ; and that having afterwards drifted on shore, she was burned as British property. But be this as it may, the case of the reparation given to Portugal, for Admiral Boscawen's violation of their neutrality, when in pursuit of an enemy's squadron, implies that like justice might have been done to the United States, in the case of the *Impetueux*, had it been claimable ; and is very good evidence of British fairness in these cases.

Captain Douglas, as Mr. Rose observes, had reason to expect hostilities, from appearances, when he came before Norfolk, and when that fear was over every thing became tranquil on his side.

With respect to the merit of the Proclamation, as a measure of precaution and security, in preference to seeking for the security to rise from new orders, issuing from the British government, it is easily discussed. The Proclamation prevented no injury on the high seas ; for it was *after the first* Proclamation, against the *Leander's* squadron, that the *Chesapeake* was attacked on the high seas. Deserters and seamen on the high seas may still be taken ; vessels detained ; accidental shots at unknown vessels, attempting to escape from search, may still do mischief. As little also is the Proclamation required as a measure of *Police*, for so Mr. Monroe calls it ; for the British lately have given little offence in port, having gone out of port to attack the *Chesapeake*, and having, while in port, surrendered deserters to American officers. The Proclamation then, instead of being a measure of precaution or of security, or of police, on the contrary, *prevents* atonement to the national honour, and renders peace and every thing else uncertain.

It is erroneous to say, that the President lost no time, in sending to Mr. Monroe. He did lose time ; perhaps because he was digesting provisional measures with TURREAU, a plan of which might have been forwarded to France, by the same vessel. In any event, Mr. Monroe learned all his first news on the subject from the British government, in London.

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