

Though proof heaped upon proof, in the course of the succeeding winter, that the decrees were not repealed—though their execution on the high seas was not even suspended, yet administration proceeded to enforce the act against Great-Britain, and to swear to the good faith and honour of France. Nine months after the pretended repeal, Mr. Russell begged the French minister to give the United States *some* proof of their repeal, and told him that he kept the John Adams waiting for some evidence to justify the liberal credit which our government had advanced to the emperor. None could be obtained, except the release of two ships *which did not come within the decrees*. Against their repeal we had evidence the most abundant; and we had most direct proofs that Bonaparte had resolved we should take more active measures against England, than a new pacifick non-importation.

Mr. Tureau told our government, in December, 1810, "These modifications (of the French trade) will not depend on the chance of events, but will be the result of *other measures*, firm, and pursued with perseverance, which the two governments will *continue* to adopt to withdraw from the vexation of the *common enemy* a commerce necessary to France as well as the United States."

Here we find the *war predicted* and *demand*ed. The non-importation and pretended repeal of the decrees, were, it seems, the *concerted measures* of the *two governments*: But the emperor's favour would depend upon our *continuing* to adopt stronger measures against the common enemy. Nor did the emperor leave us to doubt whether Tureau was authorized to hold such a language. The Duc de Cadore, in the presence of his Majesty, on the third of December, declared, that "as long as England shall persist in her orders in council, your Majesty will persist in your decrees." And in March following, in an address to his Council of Commerce, the Emperor in person said, "The decrees of Berlin and Milan are the fundamental laws of my empire. I will favour the American commerce if they will conform to my decrees, otherwise I will chase their vessels from my empire."

This was four months after Madison declared the decrees repealed. But the emperor did not confine his contradiction of Mr. Madison to words. On the fourth of July, 1811, (the day of the declaration of our Independence) the ship *Julian* was captured on the high seas, and on the tenth of September following was condemned, "because she had been visited by British cruisers." The emperor, in person, condemned, in September, 1811, four vessels, which had been carried into Dantzick for offences which were created by the decrees, and by them alone. And our agent, Mr. Russell, in his letter to our secretary of state, dated May 8th, 1811, six months after Madison's proclamation of the repeal of the French decrees, states, "that it may not be improper to remark, that no American vessel, captured since November 1st, 1810, has yet been released."

One would have thought the climax of our disgrace had been reached—that the measure of humiliation was full—but we were reserved for still further disgraces. In May, 1812, the emperor