

difficulties, were not irreconcilable. G. Britain did not claim the right to impress our native seamen.—She disavowed the practice, in all cases, when the fact was made known to her—she restored, on legal evidence—she had recently offered to return all who were of that description, of whom a list should be furnished, by our government—and she had many years before, made such offers of fair and amicable arrangement of this whole subject, as, to two distinguished members of our present cabinet, appeared “both honorable and advantageous.”

*It was unjust ;* because we had not previously taken all the reasonable steps, on our part, to remove her complaints of the seduction and employment of her seamen. This is made manifest, by the conduct of the same Congress which declared the War, they having admitted the propriety of obviating those complaints, by an act passed subsequent to the commencement of hostilities.

No state in the union can have a greater interest, or feel a stronger desire, to protect commerce, and maintain the legitimate rights of seamen, than this Commonwealth. Owners of one third of all the navigation, and probably, furnishing nearly one half of all the native seamen, of the United States, we are better enabled to appreciate the extent of their sufferings, and must also be presumed, to sympathise with them, more sincerely, than the citizens of states, destitute of commerce, and whose sons are not engaged, in its prosecution ; unless it be admitted, that the sufferers, their parents, relatives and friends, are less interested in their welfare and protection, than those who are united to them, only, by the feeble ties of political connexion.

With all the means of information, furnished by every motive of duty, and every inducement of interest, we are constrained to say, that this evil of impressment