

*It is agreed on all sides, the American government were bound in honor not to pass, except in case of such antecedent repeal!!*

Were ever a body of men so abandoned, in the hour of need, as the American cabinet, in this instance, by Bonaparte? Was ever any body of men so cruelly wounded, in the house of their friend? This,—this was “the unkindest cut of all.” But how was it received by the American cabinet? Surely, they were indignant at this treatment. Surely, the air rings with reproaches upon a man, who has thus made them stake their reputation upon a falsehood; and then gives little less than the lie direct to their assertions. No, sir, nothing of all this is heard from our cabinet. There is a philosophic tameness, that would be remarkable, if it were not, in all cases, affecting Bonaparte, characteristic. All the executive of the United States has found it in his heart to say, in relation to this last decree of Bonaparte, which contradicts his previous allegations and asseverations, is, that “This proceeding is rendered, by the time and manner of it, liable to many objections”!!!

I have referred to this subject as being, connected with future conduct, strikingly illustrative of the disposition of the American cabinet to carry on the war, and of their intention, if possible, not to make peace. Surely, if any nation had a claim for liberal treatment from another, it was the British nation from the American, after the discovery of the error of the American government, in relation to the repeal of the Berlin and Milan decrees, in November, 1810. In consequence of that error, the American cabinet had ruined numbers of our own citizens, who had been caught by the revival of the non intercourse law; they had revived that law against Great Britain under circumstances, which now appeared to have been fallacious; and they had declared war against her on the supposition, that she had refused to repeal her orders in council, after the French decrees were, in fact, revoked; whereas, it now appears, that they were in fact not revoked. Surely the knowledge of this error was followed by an instant, and anxious desire to redress the resulting injury. As the British orders in council were, in fact, revoked, on the knowledge of the existence of the French decree of repeal, surely the American cabinet, at once, extended the hand of friendship, met the British government half way, stopped all further irritation, and strove to place every thing on a basis best suited to promote an amicable adjustment. No, sir, nothing of all this occurred. On the contrary, the question of impressments is made the basis of continuing the war. On this subject a studied fairness of proposition is preserved, accompanied with systematic perseverance in measures of hostility. An armistice was proposed by them. It was refused by us. It was acceded to by the American general on the frontiers. It was rejected by the cabinet. No consideration of the false allegation, on which the war in fact was founded, no consideration of the critical and extremely consequential nature, to both nations, of the subject of impressment, no considerations of humanity, interposed their influence. They renewed hostilities. They rushed upon Canada. Nothing