

orders not to impress any American seamen, and of course not to retain against their will any already impressed ; but if they persist in obstructing every channel of information and proof of their citizenship, such orders are and will continue deceptive."

*The Secretary of State to the President of the United States*—DEPARTMENT OF STATE, February 20, 1800.

The secretary has the honour to lay before the President—

Mr. Liston's note of the 4th February, together with his project of a treaty for the reciprocal delivery of deserters ; which appears to the secretary utterly inadmissible, unless it would end to impressments, which Mr. Liston seemed to imagine, while the 7th paragraph of his project expressly recognizes the right of impressing British subjects, and consequently American citizens, as at present.

(Signed)

TIMOTHY PICKERING.\*

\* By this it would seem that no treaty with England would be satisfactory to Mr. Pickering " *unless it would put an end to impressments.*"—And that, in his opinion, every "project of a treaty" with that nation ought to be rejected—which did not expressly stipulate against, and "put an end to impressments."

*Extract of a letter from John Marshall, esquire,\* Secretary of State, to Rufus King, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at London, dated—*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Sept. 20, 1800.

"The impressment of our seamen is an injury of very serious magnitude, which deeply affects the feelings and the honour of the nation.

"This valuable class of men is composed of natives and foreigners who engage voluntarily in our service.

"No right has been asserted to impress the natives of

\* Now Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.