

By a decree of the French republick, in the very height of her pretensions for free principles, dated Frimaire, an. 5th, it is provided, that "All captains of *neutralized vessels* shall prove by certificates of their own minister near the French court, that they were born in an *allied or neutral country*, under pain of being treated as spies."

Here the right of expatriation and the protection of naturalization are denied.

Let us pause here a moment—William Duane, an Englishman naturalized in America, would by the above edict be liable to be hung as a spy in France, notwithstanding his letters of naturalization, and his being covered by the American flag: yet Mr. Madison contends that this same William Duane would be perfectly protected on the high seas by this same paper against his own *natural sovereign*.

By another decree, 8th Brumaire, an. 7. it is provided, that

"All individuals, natives, originating in the countries of our allies or neutrals, who shall bear a commission from our enemies, or make a part of the crews of vessels of war, or O'HERS, shall be for this single fact declared pirates, and treated as such."

Both Great-Britain and France had, for many years before invited *foreign sailors* into their service, and had given them the privileges of native born seamen, or, as the French term it, of "*Regnicoles*," yet neither nation understood, it seems, by that stipulation that they could protect them either against their being punished for such entry, by their own sovereign, or their being treated as pirates by their enemies.

By an edict of the year 6th, Ventose 8. it is declared,

"That all English sailors, *on board neutral flags*, in the ports of France should be arrested;—and every man who spoke the English language should be considered English, unless he could prove by authentick evidence and documents that he was American."

Here we see, what would be the state of our *protections* with a vengeance, had France been able to keep her fleets at sea during the war. Every American or person speaking the English tongue, would be *presumed English*!

I shall not cite, as I could, many other edicts tending to prove the same points, but shall conclude with stating one out of many cases in which France has carried these principles into effect on the high seas—that we have not a thousand cases of the kind is because her ships are scarcely ever at sea, and we have not 50 French seamen in our employ. In the year 1806, Admiral Willaumez in a French ship called the Foudroyant, met with an American brig and forcibly took out four French seamen, who had entered in this country:—not content with *impressing them*—he wrote as follows to Gen. Turreau, Ambassador of France:—

"My Lord—I have just apprehended four seamen deserters, from the Valeureuse frigate, which I found on board an American brig, where they had *engaged* at 17 dollars per month.—Now, Sir, if you can succeed in making the American government pay down