subjects of Britain, if they deserted from the British, if they were demanded by the British, and refused by us, then was the force used in taking them from the Chesapeake justifiable, and the cause of war on our part, though the act was hers.

Why this representation is made, is altogether unaccountable, unless we consider it as flowing from that habitual attempt to apologise for the injustice of Britain, which characterises these prints. The president's proclamation, the highest authority the case admits of, an authority which no American or indeed honest man will dispute says these men were Americans. And yet these British apologists can write columns, descanting on the hypothesis that they were British subjects.

But, should we admit them, for argument's sake, to have been British subjects had Britain a right to demand them? It is denied that she had any such right. While the late treaty continued in force between the two nations, she enjoyed, under an express stipulation, a right to require the delivery of fugitives charged with murder or forgery; but that treaty has expired; and the case is now the same as tho' no such treaty had ever existed; with however, this difference—that the insertion of such a provision, of itself contains a strong implication that without it the right it gave did not exist.—And even this right, were it now in force, would not embrace the present case. But putting this consideration aside, let us examine the case on its own grounds.

British seamen, subjects of Britain, desert from British vessels. They seek an asylum in this country. Suppose on reaching our shores, in order the more effectually to screen themselves from the punishment, which would inevitably await them should they be taken by the British they change their occupation, and become farmers or mechanics.—Would the American government be under any obligation to deliver them up? Indisputably not. The act of desertion, however criminal, being committed without the jurisdiction of the United States, those who committed it, standing in the same situation with the perpetrators of all other offences committed out of the United States, would not be amenable for such offences to the laws of the United States. Those laws do not recognize any acts as criminal, except those committed within the United States or against the United States.—The government of the United States could not therefore legally arrest those alledged to have committed them; much less could it arrest, and then deliver up the alledged offender to the power demanding him. This point is so clear, as not to require any further illustration.

Would the case be altered by such deserters entering our merchant service? Clearly not. For the right of every member of the community is the same to follow this as any other profession. And should a foreign government demand of our government their arrest and delivery, it would be a sufficient answer to say that the laws of the country gave them no such authority, inasmuch as they only authorised an arrest for offences committed against the U. States.

Finally, is the case altered by such men entering the public service on board a national vessel. It is not perceived that this in the least varies the case. If the person, who deserted from the British service entered our service immediately, and their act of desertion known and countenanced by us, the British might unquestionably have reason to complain. But it is not pretended that this is the fact in the present instance, or that it has been the fact, in any instance whatever. The case supposed is that of British subjects deserting from the British service, landing in the U. States and afterwards entering into the service of the United States. Is there any obligation imposed on the United States when men offer to enter her service, to inquire whether they are Americans, Englishmen, or deserters? Were she disposed to do so, has she the means of obtaining the truth? Neither the obligation or means exist. Men are wanted by her, and the American flag offers its protection to all who enlist. Obedience is not less obligatory on our side, than protection on the other. Once enlisted on board a national vessel, the rights of the enlisted are no otherwise abridged than the rules of the naval service abridge them, if they were not punishable for certain acts committed by them in foreign countries, or on the high seas, *before* their enlistments, they do not become punishable for such acts *after* their enlistment. It is not therefore the duty of the American government, either themselves to punish, or to give them up to foreign power for punishment; and if it is not their duty to give them up, no right can exist in a foreign government to *demand* them. The latter may request their delivery, and the former may comply with the request; but the delivery will be an act of courtesy, not the fulfilment of a duty.

But it may be said that the law of nations, which is paramount to all municipal laws, requires the surrender of deserters. This we totally deny; and say that neither the law or usage of independent nations recognize such a principle.

It is, indeed, we understand, customary for the commanders of men of war on the high seas and on foreign stations, as an act of courtesy, to surrender deserters from each other. But in this case the act of desertion is direct from one vessel to the other; and the delivery is a matter of favor not of right.

Let us then hear no more of this most absurd of all absurd pretensions. However the Englishman, whose habitual perversion of mind has accustomed him to measure right by force, may rave in the delirium of his passions; let us look upon that American as a promising candidate for bedlam, who broaches such opinions; and, particulary, let our eyes be fixed upon him in times like these.

[*Intelligencer.*]

The Committee of Norfolk have closed their duties,—duties the more arduous from the extraordinary nature of the crisis, and the peculiar circumstances in which they were placed. Their services are already rewarded in the thanks of their country. Unappalled by danger, energetic yet dispassionate in the measures they took, feeling their high responsibility in the discharge of duties, whose only justification was to be found in the manner in which they were performed, it has rarely fallen to the lot of any men to have acted more correctly or to have given a more complete satisfaction to their countrymen. The spirit, dignity and justness with which they have conducted themselves deserve to be recorded, as adding another evidence of the safety with which the people confided to make up for those deficiencies of delegated power, perhaps inseperable from the nature of free governments.

It is the best justification of the leading step taken by them, that it is the very one adopted by the government, and consequently the step, which had the government, from its local situation possessed the means of immediately acting, would have been adopted by it. But why talk of justification in a case where the nation has already most audibly expressed not merely its approbation, but applause; and in which the insignificant murmurs of disaffection only serve the more decidedly to call forth public opinion.

Norfolk, July 18.

Yesterday morning arrived at their quarters in Portsmouth, Captains Peyton, Randolph's and Richardson's companies of light infantry, and captain Bragg's company of militia, from Richmond—at the same time arrived captain Bolling Robertson's company of light infantry, called the 'Republican Blues,' from Petersburg. These companies are all under the command of major Ambler. They, though never inured to the '*tented field*,' from what we have seen, may be relied on, in the hour of danger, to ascend to the almost 'inaccessible breach.' With such men, possessing such feelings, America may defy a host of mercenaries.

Yesterday afternoon a detachment from the battalion of cavalry, under the command of Major M'Rae, set off for the Eastern Shore of Princess Anne, where we are informed the squadron under the command of commodore Douglas, rides snug at anchor close into the shore. If these haughty veterans, Douglas, Hardy, Humphries, &c. are disposed to try the spirit of Virginia, they will have an opportunity, and we have no doubt but they will require all the victories they ever gained on the ocean, to wash away the disgrace they will meet with on the land from the energy of these patriotic Sons of Virginia.

To the Editor of the Argus.

SIR,

I OBSERVE that a northern paper disclaims the right of trying the aggressors of the Chesapeake in this country on the ground that the offence was committed out of our jurisdiction. This opinion ought to have been better weighed before it was given to the public. The present Chief Justice of the United States, when a member of Congress, advocated the surrender of Jonathan Robbins to be tried by a British tribunal, on the following ground—"The Hermione, it is true, was out of the British territorial line when the mutiny took place; but the Hermione was a national ship; and therefore wherever she was, formed a part of the British territory:—a mutiny on board of the Hermione was then a crime committed within the British territory, and of course *exclusively* cognizable by the British courts."—This is the substance of that powerful argument by which its author was rendered so illustrious. Apply it to this case:—The Chesapeake was without our territorial line; but the Chesapeake was herself a national ship, and a part of our territory:—the murder was committed within the Chesapeake; therefore within our territory; & exclusively cognizible by our courts. W.

NEW-YORK, July 27.

Arrived, the ship Susan, Howard, 44 days from Bordeaux. Paris papers to the 8th, and Bordeaux to the 9th of June are received. Dantzic capitulated on the 24th of May, was entered by the French on the 26th. Enclosed you have the particulars. The ship Charleston Packet was to sail next day for Philadelphia.

[*Translated for the Philadelphia Gazette.*]

77th BULLETIN OF THE FRENCH GRAND ARMY.

Finkenstein, May 27.

Dantzic has capitulated. This fine place is in our power. 800 pieces of artillery, magazines of all kinds, more than 500,000 quintals of grain, considerable cellors of liquors, immense provisions of cloth and groceries, every kind of necessaries for the army, in short a place of the greatest strength, exhausting our left as Thorn exhausted our centre and Prag our right; these are the advantages obtained during the winter, and which have signalized the leisure of the grand army. It is the first, the finest fruit of the victory of Eylau. The rigor of the season, and snow which has added new difficulties to it, have been no obstacles to our labors. Marshal Lefebvre has surmounted every thing. He has animated with the same spirit, the Saxons, the Poles, the Badens, and has united them all to his purpose.

The difficulties which the artillery has had to combat, were considerable. One hundred mouths of fire, 500,000lbs. of powder, an immense quantity of bullets, have been drawn from Stettin, and other places in Silesia. It had been necessary to vanquish the difficulties of transportation, but the Vistula has afforded a means prompt and easy. The *marines of the guard* have forced a passage for the boats, under the fort of Graudentz, with their usual resolution and ability. Gen. Chasseloup, and gen. Riegener, col. Lacoste, and in general all the officers, have served in the most distinguished manner. The miners have shewn a rare intrepidity. All the corps of artillery, commanded by gen. Lariboiniere has sustained its reputation. The second regiment of light infantry, the 12th and the Parisian troops the gen. Schramm, and the gen. Puthod have distinguished themselves. A detailed journal of this siege, will be prepared with fidelity and care. It will consecrate a great number of brave actions worthy to be recorded as future examples, and deeds calculated to excite enthusiasm and admiration.

May 17, the mine has stopped the passage of the covered way. The 19th, the descent and the passage of the *fosse* were executed at 7 o'clock at night.—The 21st, marshal Lefebvre having prepared every thing for assault, they mounted, when col. Lacoste, who had been sent in the morning into the place, made it known that gen. Kalkreuth requested to capitulate on the same terms which had formerly been granted to the garrison of Mayence. This was agreed to. Hakelsberg would have been taken without any great loss; but the main body of the place was still entire: a large ditch, filled with water, presented many obstacles to the besiegers, and would have prolonged the defence for 15 days. This being the case, it was thought proper to grant them an honorable capitulation.

On the 27th the garrison marched out with general Kalkreuth at their head. This strong garrison, which at first consisted of 16000 men, were reduced to 9000, of which number 4000 deserted. There are even some officers among the deserters. "We do not wish, say they, to go to Siberia" Many thousand artillery horses have been delivered to us, but they are in very bad condition. An inventory of the magatines is now making. General Rapp is appointed governor of Dantzic.

The Russian general Kamenski, after having been beaten on the 15th, had retired under the fortifications of Weischelmunde, where he remained without attempting to undertake any thing, a witness to he reduction of the place. When he saw batteries of red hot balls established for destroying his vessels, he embarked and returned to Pillau.

The fort of Weischelmunde still held out Marshal Lefebvre summoned it on the 26th, and while the capitulation was drawing up, the garrison came out, and surrendered themselves. The commandant, thus abondoned, saved himself by sea Thus we have become masters of the city and port of Dantzic. These evens form a happy presage of the future campaign. The emperor of Russia and king of Prusia were at Heiligerbeel. They must have learnt the reduction of the place by the cessation of the firing. The cannonading could be heard at that distance.

The empror, in order to express his satisfaction with the besieging army, has made a present to every soldier.

The sieg of Graudentz has commenced unter the command of general Victor. General Lasouskie commands the enginees and general Danthouan the artillery. Graudentz is very strong, on account of the quantity of mines it posseses.

The cavalry of the army is in high order. The divisions of light cavalry, two divisions of cuirassiers and one of dragoons, were reviewed at Elbing on the 26th, by the grand duke of Berg. On the same day his majesty went to Bischoffen, and Stratsburg, where he reviewed the divisions of cuirassiers of Hautpoult and the divisions of dragoons of general Grouchy. He was satisfied with their appearance, and the excellent condition of their horses.

The ambassador of the Porte, Seid-Mahommed Emen-Vahid, was presented on the 28th, at 2 o'clock, by the prince of Benevento, to the emperor, to whom he delivered his credentials. He remained an hour in his majesty's cabinet. He lodges in the castle, and occupies the apartment of the grand duke of Breg, absent from the review. We are assured that the emperor told him, that he, and the emperor Selim, should thenceforward be inseperable friends. The good news of the success at Ismail and Wallachia, is just received: the Russians have been obliged to raise the seige of Ismail and evacute Wallachia.

LONDON, May 29.

Copy of a letter from the president of the United States of America, to the king of Holland, intercepted by one of the ships of the North Sea squadron, under the command of admiral Russel:

Great and good friend—Having received your letter of September last, which notifies your accession to the throne of Holland, I tender you, in behalf of the United States, my congratulations on this event. Connected with that nation by the earliest ties of friendship, and maintaining with them uninterrupted relations of peace and commerce, no events which interests their welfare can be indifferent to us. It is, therefore, with the greatest pleasure I receive this assurance of your majesty, that you will continue to cherish those ancient relations, and we shall, on our part endeavour to strengthen your good will by a faithful observance of justice, and by all the good offices which occasion shall permit.

Distant as we are from the powers of Europe, and devoted to pursuits which separate us from their affairs, we still look with brotherly concern on what effects those nations, and offer constant prayers for their welfare. With a friendly solicitude for your majesty's person, I pray God that he may always have you, great and good friend, in his holy keeping.

Written at the City of Washington, the 28th day of February, 1807.

THOS. JEFFERSON.

By order of the president,

James Madison, Secretary of State.

BY THE HONORABLE

George Cranfield Berkeley,

Vice-Admiral of the white, and commander in chief of his majesty's ships and vessels employed in the river St. Lawrence, along the coast of Nova-Scotia, the islands of St. John and Cape Breton, the bay of Funday and at and about, the island of Bermuda, or Somers' islands.

Whereas many seamen, subjects of his Britannic majesty, and serving in his majesty's ships and vessels, as per margin,* while at anchor in the Chesapeake, deserted and entered on board the United States frigate the Chesapeake, and openly paraded the streets of Norfolk, in sight of their officers, under the American flag, protected by the magistrates of the town, and the recruiting officer belonging to the above mentioned American frigate; which magistrates and naval officer, refused giving them up, although demanded by his Britannic majesty's consul, as well as the captains of the ships from which the said men had deserted; the captains and commanders of his majesty's ships and vessels under my command are therefore hereby required and directed, in case of meeting with the American frigate Chesapeake, at sea, and without the limits of the United States, to shew to the captain of her, this order, and to require to search his ship for the deserters from the before mentioned ships, and to proceed and search for the same; and if a similar demand should be made by the American, he is permitted to search for deserters from their service, according to the customs and usage of civilized nations, on terms of peace and amity with each other.

Given under my hand, at Halifax, Nova-Scotia, the 1st day June, 1807.

(Signed)

G. C. BERKELEY.

To the respective captains commanders of his majesty's ships & vessels on the North American station.

* *Bellisle, Bellona, Triumph, Chichester, Halifax, Zenobia (Cutter.)*

FROM THE BOTSON CHRONICLE.

The two articles subjoined are copied from the Quebec Mercury:

"*Port of Quebec, June 25, 1807.*—Arrived his majesty's frigate Crocodile, commanded by G. E. H. Bettesworth, esq. from Halifax, 18 days passage.

"We learn by the arrival of captain Bettesworth, of his majesty's frigate Crocodile, that orders had been received by the kings ships, on the Halifax station, to board the American frigate now at sea, and take by force every British seaman that may be found on board her. The force of the American ship is said to be 52 guns.

"We hear that the Crocodile brings 100,000 dollars."

There has not, perhaps, ever been so memorable an example of unanimity, as that evinced in the United States at this interesting crisis. The same soul animates the whole nation, and there is a perfect harmony between the government and the people.—We have always maintained that external danger would make us an undivided people, and we rejoice to find the prediction completely verified.

There is no section of the union that does not ardently wish for the preservation of peace.

There is none that does not consider the late infamous outrage, if authorised, as demanding resistance.

And there is none that has not already avowed its fixed purpose, in case reparation shall not be made, to hazard all the perils of war, rather than submit to insults and injuries which no independent nation can tolerate.

Never has a government more boldly floated on the tide of national confidence than our own government does at this time. Let not then Britain, as she undoubtedly has heretofore done, count on our divisions.—There will be none as to her. It was our intention to republish all the proceedings of public meetings in the United States; but their great number aud length render this absolutely impossible. We are, therefore, obliged to limit our publication to those proceedings, inserted for the first time in the National Intelligencer, and those which, by being selected from different parts of the country; shall be the best calculated to display national spirit. But in order to preserve a satisfactory record of the patriotism of our fellow citizens, we shall briefly notice all the meetings which have been or which shall be held, whose entire proceedings are not given.

With this view, we now enumerate the following meetings:

By the citizens of	*held on*
Lynchburgh, Virginia,	July 7.
Bent creek, Virginia,	July 7.
Powhatan, Virginia,	July 9.
Charles City, Virginia,	July 13.
Trenton, N. Jersey,	July 3.
Westmoreland county, (Virg.)	July 8.
Hagers Town, Maryland,	July 14.
Frederick Town, Maryland,	July 4.
Chester county, Pennsylvania,	July 3.
Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania,	July 3.
New Kent, Virginia,	July 9.
Lunenburg, Virginia,	July 9.
Williamsburg, Virginia,	July 6.
Smithfield and Isle of Wight, V.	July 6.
Winchester, Virginia,	
Carlisle, Pennsylvania,	July 6.
Port Royal, Virginia.	

Nat. Intel.

Newburyport, July 17.

We learn by the master of an eastern sloop, which arrived last Monday, the following particulars; for their correctness we cannot vouch—the eastern papers are silent on the subject.

That an English privateer of 15 guns, from St. Johns, had come into the jurisdiction of the U. States at a place called Snng Cove, near Passamaquoddy, where lay a coasting vessel belonging to Harpswell, Capt. Merriman. An officer and men from the privateer came on board capt. M. and in an insolent manner ordered him to call his people on deck (they being below fearing the intention of the privateersmen) which capt. M. refused. The officer said he would be d——d if he did not have some of them; he then proceeded to open the hatches, at which instant the Americans below told him if he attempted to descend they would shoot him. Not regarding the caution, he was about to effect his purpose, when the men below, as good as their word, let drive and shot 3 balls through him, when he fell instantaneously dead.—How the affair terminated our informant does not know.

New-York, July 20.

The British frigate Crocodile arrived at Quebec on the 29th of June, in 18 days from Halifax, with the intelligence that orders had been received from the English government by the commandant of vessels on the Halifax station, to take by force if necessary the British seamen who were on board a frigate of the United States, carrying about 52 guns, and supposed to be then at sea.

July 21.

The experiment of Mr. Fulton for blowing up ships of war was made about 7 o'clock yesterday afternoon upon a brig of 200 tons burthen, and succeeded to the utmost wishes of the inventor. When the machinery had taken effect, the brig's foremast was thrown up several feet, and in less than a minute she totally disappeared.

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WRITING PAPER

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