

October 27, 1812

Monroe to Warren (cont)

\* At the moment of the declaration of War, the President gave a signal proof, of the attachment of the United States to peace. Instructions were given, at that early period, to the late Charge des Affaires of the United States at London, to propose to the British Government an armistice, on conditions which it was presumed would have been satisfactory. It has been seen with regret that the proposition made by Mr. Russell, particularly in regard to the important interest of impressment, was rejected, and that none was offered, through that channel, as a basis on which hostilities might cease.

As your Government has authorized you to propose a cessation of hostilities, and is doubtless aware of the important and salutary effect, which a satisfactory adjustment of this difference, cannot fail to have on the future relations between the two Countries, I indulge the hope that it has, ere this, given you full power for the purpose. Experience has evinced that no peace can be durable unless this object is provided for. It is presumed, therefore, that it is equally the interest of both Countries, to adjust it, at this time.

Without further discussing questions of right, the President is desirous to provide a remedy for the evils complained of on both sides. The claim of the British Government is, to take from the merchant Vessels of other Countries, British Subjects. In the practice, the Commanders of British Ships of War often take from the Merchant Vessels of the United States, American Citizens. If the United States prohibit the employment of British Subjects in their service,