on the coast of the United States, was great, yet no order had been given by the government, for the recovery by force, of any citizen so impressed, from any British ship of war. The orders given to the commanders of the frigates and armed vessels of the United States were for the protection of their coast, and of their commerce within the legitimate limits.

I need not repeat to you, sir, the sincere regret of this government, that such an encounter took place, and more especially that it should have produced the unfortunate consequences which attended it.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) JAS. MONROE.

Aug. J. Foster. Esq. &c. &c. &c.

MR. FOSTER TO MR. MONROE.

Washington, July 24, 1811.

SIR,

I have had the honor to receive your letter dated on the 19 instant, in answer to mine of the 3d, in which I expressed a desire to have stated in a more formal manner your denial to me of orders having been given to Commodore Rogers which could under any construction authorise that commander to attack any of His Majesty's ships of war in search of any person claimed as an American seaman, and in which I also demanded that an examination should be instituted into that officer's conduct, with a view to suitable reparation being afforded to his Majesty for what appears a wanton and unprovoked attack made by the frigate under his command, upon His Majesty's sloop of war, the Little Belt.

The denial I asked for, you have given me, and I beg to assure you, sir, that though I troubled you with the demand, because the extensiveness of the rumor, which had attributed such orders to the American government, had made it my duty so to do, yet I never entertained an idea for one moment that the government of the U. States could have issued such orders, because they must have been considered as manifestations of direct intentions of hostility which have been incompatible with the relations of amity subsisting between America and Great Britain.

On such a point, sir, a simple denial was all I asked and what I expected to receive. It was therefore with pain that I found you had connected it with allusions to other topics calculated to produce irritation, on which whatever complaints you may have to make to me, I shall be ever ready to receive and forward them for redress to the Commander in Chief of his Majesty's naval forces at Halifax, or to his Majesty's government, but the mentioning of which in your note in answer to mine on a distinct subject of the most serious importance, you will pardon me if I must consider as matter of regret, especially as you wished me to receive the communication you made me as given in an amicable spirit.

Moreover from the tenor of the part of your letter in which you have connected the question of impressment with that of an attack on the British sloop of war, an inference is forced upon me, which you surely never could have meant me to draw, but which, nevertheless, the passage conveys, namely, that, *although* the government of the United States had not given orders for the recovery by force of any American citizen claimed from a British national ship, they still maintain they might have been justified in so doing. The right of searching a ship of war has been so positively disavowed on the part of His Majesty's government, and so disclaimed by that of America that I could not have expected any doubts would ever again have been thrown on the matter, and yet the language of your letter, until it is explained, will certainly authorise such doubts as far as relates to the American government.

I have no answer at all from you, sir, to my demand for an inquiry being instituted into the conduct of Captain Rodgers. This omission has occasioned to me the more surprise because in addition to there appearing to be no cause why the government of America should decline to listen to so just a demand on my part, there seemed to be every reason why they should even for their own satisfaction have desired to clear up the circumstances of his most extraordinary proceeding. I will indeed frankly own to you that I did think on reaching this city to have found that officer's conduct already, by the spontaneous act of the government of the United States, undergoing an examination, instead of hearing that he had been sent immediately to sea again, which seemed to denote an approbation of his behavior; & I thought I could the more rely on this being the course the President would have pursued, from a consideration of that which His Majesty's government had taken in the case of the Chesapeake when every reparation practicable at the instant the intelligence reached London of that unfortunate event, was made to you, sir, promptly and unasked for.

I feel the more regret, sir, at the course taken by your government in this affair, because I have been necessarily obliged in consequence to suspend carrying into execution that part of my instructions by which I was directed immediately on my arrival here to offer such further reparation for the attack on the Chesapeake frigate as would, I am convinced, have proved satisfactory. I had the honor to state to you, in our first interview, that I had such instructions, although I omitted to mention it in my note, because, as you may remember, I expressed to you at the time, it seemed to me the American government might feel more free to act as the justice of the case required, if the two subjects were kept unconnected; and in this opinion I thought you appeared to concur.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest consideration and respect, sir, your most obedient humble servant.

AUG. J. FOSTER.

The Hon. James Monroe, Secretary of State.

MR. FOSTER TO MR. MONROE.

Philadelphia, Sept. 4, 1811.

SIR,

I have now by an express passenger from England received the commands of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, acting in the name and on the behalf of his majesty, relative to the late violent aggression committed by the U. States' Frigate, the President, on His Majesty's Ship Little Belt, and I have the honor of communicating to you the inclosed documents which have been transmitted to me by my government to be laid before that of the United States, comprehending a copy of a letter from Lord James Townsend commanding officer at Halifax, dated May 30, 1811, inclosing a statement of the action by the officers of the Little Belt—the report of the Commissioner of his majesty's navy board at Halifax, in respect to the damage done the Little Belt; a copy of Rear Admiral Sawyer's letter inclosing his instructions to captain Bingham, as well as a list of killed and wounded on board the Sloop of War—and finally a copy of the correspondence on the subject which took place between the American charge d'affairs in London; of that of Captain Bingham's official letter you already are in possession.

In communicating to you, sir, these Documents I am particularly directed to call your attention to the instructions of Admiralty Sawyer which furnished the strongest evidence of the pacific and friendly intentions of his Majesty's government towards this country. The very pointed manner in which the Commander in Chief on the Halifax station had enjoined Captain Bingham to avoid giving offence to the government or subjects of the U. States is of itself presumptive proof of the truth of that officers statement, even, if there were not such strong evidence as appears from the deposition of the different officers on board his Majesty's ship as to the action having been commenced by Captain Rogers.

His Majesty's government were entitled to expect, as I have had already the honor to observe to you, sir, in my former letter, that the American government would have manifested a prompt disposition to obviate by an early disavowal and by just reparation, the necessary tendency of such an event to disturb the friendship subsisting between the two states, and this expectation was the more natural from the example afforded by his Majesty's government in the case of the Chesapeake.

Such, however, not having been the case, I am commanded by His Royal Highness to lose no time in communicating to you the papers inclosed, which explain in the fullest manner the circumstances of the transaction, and the very great extent of the outrage committed, by which so many valuable lives were sacrificed, and in demanding the immediate disavowal on the Part of the U. States of the act of aggression committed against his Majesty's ship as also in requiring a just reparation of the injury received.

I have the honor to be, with sentiments of the highest consideration and respect, Sir, your most obedient humble servant.

AUG. J. FOSTER.

To the Hon. James Monroe, &c. &c. &c.

MR. MONROE TO MR. FOSTER.

Department of State, Sept. 14, 1811.

SIR,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 4th inst. respecting the encounter between the United State's frigate the President and his Britannic Majesty's ship Little Belt, which I have laid before the President of the United States.

In the first interview which took place between us, after your arrival at Washton, I stated explicitly that no instructions had been given to take any seamen from on board a British ship of war, nor any order whatever of a hostile nature. I made the same declaration afterwards, at your request, in a more formal manner; and it is with the same frankness that I now again repeat it.

Such a declaration was deemed proper, in order to obviate misapprehensions which might obstruct any conciliatory and satisfactory propositions with which you might be charged. It was in conformity also with the candor and friendly policy which have been shewn by this government in all its transactions with Great Britain.

If the answer to your former letter was limited to its disavowal of hostile intentions on the part of this government, it need scarcely be remarked, that no further view of the subject could then, nor as yet can, be entered into, on the demand of the British government, without forgetting an essential preliminary to such a demand.

It might be added that with the circumstances of the transaction, as officially before this government, the true ground on which it claimed attention, was that of a violent aggression by a British on an American ship, in a situation and manner authorizing the strongest appeal to the British government for redress. If an instant representation and demand to that effect were not made, it was a proof only that this government permitted the event of the encounter to temper the feelings and retard the complaint, prompted by the origin and character of it.

It is not seen without surprize that the case of the Chesapeake is cited as an example supporting a demand of reparation in the present case. No other remark will be made than that the fifth year is now elapsing without reparation in that case, although so palpably and even confessedly due to the rights of the United States, and the honor of their flag.

In the instruction to Captain Bingham thus frankly communicated, the President sees a token of amity and conciliation, which, if pursued in the extent corresponding with that in which these sentiments are entertained by the U. States, must hasten a termination of every controversy which has so long subsisted between the two countries.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) JAMES MONROE.

Aug. J. Foster. Esq. &c. &c. &c.

MR. MONROE TO MR. FOSTER.

Department of State, Oct. 11, 1811.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of the proceedings of a Court of Enquiry, held by order of the President, on the conduct of Commodore Rogers, in the late encounter between a frigate of the U. States, the President, and His Britannic Majesty's ship, the Little Belt.

The result of this enquiry, which was conducted in public, in a manner the most fair and impartial, and established by the concurrent testimony of all the officers of the American, ship, and of others which it was proper to summon, cannot, it is presumed, leave a doubt in the mind of any one that capt. Bingham made the attack, and without a justifiable cause.

That Commodore Rogers pursued a vessel which had at first pursued him, and hailed her as soon as he approached within a suitable distance, are circumstances which can be of no avail to Captain Bingham. The United States have a right to know the national character of the armed ships which hover on their coast, and whether they visit it with friendly or illicit views. It is a right inseparable from the sovereignty of every independent state, and intimately connected with their tranquility and peace. All nations exercise it, and none with more rigor, or at a greater distance from the coast than Great Baitain herself, nor any on more justifiable grounds than the United States. In addition to the considerations which have recommended these precautions to other powers, it is rendered of the more importance to the United States, by the practice of armed vessels from the West Indies investing our coast for unauthorised and even piratical purposes. Instances have also occurred, in which the commanders of British ships of war, after impressing seamen from American vessels, have concealed their names, and the names of their ships, whereby an application to their government for the reparation due for such outrages, with the requisite certainty, is rendered impracticable. For these reasons the conduct of Commodore Rogers, in approaching the Little Belt to make the necessary enquiries, and exchange a friendly salute, was strictly correct.

The President therefore, can regard the act of Captain Bingham no otherwise than as a hostile aggression on the flag of the United States, and he is persuaded that his Britannic majesty, viewing it in the same light will bestow on it the attention which it merits.

With great respect and consideration, I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

JAMES MONROE.

Aug. J. Foster, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

MR. FOSTER TO MR. MONROE.

Washington, Oct. 26, 1811.

SIR,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 11th instant, inclosing a copy of the proceedings of a court of enquiry held by order of the President of the United States on the conduct of Commodore Rogers in the late encounter between a frigate of the U. States, the President, and his majesty's ship the Little Belt, fixed on Captain Bingham the charge of having commenced the engagement, and claiming in consequence the attention of his majesty's government towards it, as to an act of hostility on the part of the British officer.

I may be permitted to remind you, sir, that after I had ascertained from you that no hostile intentions on the part of the government of the United States were connected with the proceedings of Captain Rogers, all I asked in the first instance was, that the President of the United States would be pleased to order an enquiry into his conduct, which had tended so seriously to interrupt the harmony subsisting between our two countries; and which having hitherto received no palliation whatever from any evidence in contradiction of Captain Bingham's statement, as officially transmitted to his majesty's government, must have continued to appear to them to be utterly incapable of receiving any.

The document you have now done me the honor to communicate to me, with the copy annexed, of Captain Rogers's letter, (for the first time officially before me) is, however, so far satisfactory as it shews that captain Rogers has endeavored to exculpate himself, exhibiting the ground on which he rests his defence, and I shall without delay transmit it to be laid before his royal highness the Prince Regent. It certainly proves a most unaccountable difference to exist between the statement of the commander and officers of the Little Belt and those of the President, as to the firing of the first gun; and I must remark that from the concurrent testimony of several of the officers of the United States ship, as to the orders given by Captain Rogers on hearing the Little Belt, there appears to have been an impression on his mind that an encounter was to ensue, and as the Little Belt was evidently endeavouring to avoid him, such an idea it would seem could only have arisen from the opinion he entertained of his own proceedings as being likely to bring it on.

I take this occasion to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated September 14, in answer to mine of the 2d, a copy of which I immediately forwarded to my government.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration and respect, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

AUG. J. FOSTER.

To the Honorable James Monroe, &c. &c. &c.

OCCUPATION OF FLORIDA.

Washington, July 2d, 1811.

SIR,

The attention of his majesty's government has of late been called to the measures pursued by the United States for the military occupation of West Florida. The language held by the President at the opening of the late session of Congress, the hostile demonstrations made by the American forces under captain Gaines, the actual summoning of the Fort of Mobile, and the bill submitted to the approbation of the American Legislature for the interior administration of the Province, are so many direct and positive proofs that the Government of America prepared to subject the Province of West Florida to the authority of the United States.

The Spanish Minister in London addressed a note in the month of March last to his majesty's Secretary of State for foreign affairs expressing in sufficient detail the feelings of the government of Spain respecting this unprovoked aggression on the integrity of that monarch.

Mr. Morier in his note to Mr. Smith of December 15, 1810, has already remained the American government of the intimate alliance subsisting between his majesty and Spain, and he has desired such explanations on the subject as might convince his majesty of the pacific disposition of the U. States towards Spain. Mr. Smith in his reply has stated that it was evident that hostile or unfriendly purpose was entertained by America towards Spain; and that the American minister at his majesty's court had been enabled to make whatever explanations might comport with the frank and conciliatory spirit which had been invariably manifested on the part of the United States.

Since the date of this correspondence Mr. Pinkney has offered no explanation whatever of the motives which have actuated the conduct of the United States in this transaction; a bill has been introduced into Congress for the establishment, government and protection of the Territory of Mobile, and the fortress of that name has been summoned without effect.

His royal highness the Prince Regent in the name and on the behalf of his majesty, is still willing to hope that the American government has not been urged to this step by ambitious motives or by a desire of foreign conquest, and territorial aggrandisement. It would be satisfactory however to be enabled to ascertain that no consideration connected with the present state of Spain has induced America to despoil that monarchy of a valuable foreign colony.

The government of the United States contends that the right to the possession of a certain part of West Florida will not be less open to discussion in the occupation of America than under the government of Spain.

But the government of the United States, under this pretext, cannot expect to avoid the reproach, which must attend the ungenerous & unprovoked seizure of a foreign colony while the parent state is engaged in a noble contest for independence, against a most unjustifiable and violent invasion of the rights both of the monarch and people of Spain.

While I wait, therefore, for an explanation from you, sir, as to the motives which led to this unjust aggression by the United States on the Territories of his majesty's ally, I must consider it as my duty to lose no time in fulfilling the orders of his royal highness the Prince Regent by which I am commanded on the event of its appearing on my arrival in this City that the United States still persevere by menaces and active demonstration to claim the military occupation of West Florida, notwithstanding the remonstrances of his majesty's charge d'affaires and the manifest injustice of the act, to present to you the solemn protest of his majesty against an attempt so contrary to every principle of public justice, law and national honor, and so injurious to the alliance subsisting between his majesty and the Spanish nation.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

AUG. J. FOSTER.

To the Honorable James Monroe, &c. &c. &c.

MR. MONROE TO MR. FOSTER.

Department of State, July 8, 1811.

SIR,

I have had the honor to receive the note which you have presented, by the order of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, to protest, in behalf of the Regency of Spain, against the possession lately taken by the United States to certain parts of West Florida.

Although the President cannot admit the right of Great Britain to interfere in any question relating to that Province, he is willing to explain, in a friendly manner, the considerations which induced the United States to take the step against which you have been ordered to protest.

It is to be inferred from your view of the subject, that the British government has been taught to believe that the United States seized a moment of national embarrassment to wrest from Spain a province to which they had no right, and that they were prompted to it by their interest alone, & a knowledge that Spain could not defend it. Nothing, however, is more remote from the fact, than the presumption on which your government appears to have acted. Example of so unworthy a conduct are unfortunately too frequent in the history of nations, but the United States have not followed them. The president had persuaded himself that the unequivocal proofs which the United States have given in all their transactions with foreign powers, and particularly with Spain, of an upright and liberal policy, would have shielded them from such unmerited a suspicion. He is satisfied that nothing is wanting but a correct knowledge of facts completely to dissipate it.

I might bring to your view a long catalogue of injuries which the U. States have received from Spain since the conclusion of their revolutionary war, any one of which would most probably have been considered cause of war, and resented as such, by other powers. I will mention two of these only; the spoliations that were committed on their commerce to a great amount in the last war, and the suppression of their deposit at New Orleans just before the commencement of the present war, in violation of a solemn treaty; for neither of which injuries has any reparation or atonement been made. For injuries like those of the first class, it is known to you that Great Britain and France made indemnity. The United States, however, do not rely on these injuries for a justification of their conduct in this transaction, although their claims to reparation for them are by no means relinquished, and, it is to be presumed, will not always be neglected.

When I inform you that the province of West Florida to the Perdido was a part of Louisiana, while the whole province formerly belonged to France, that although it was afterwards separated from the other part, yet that both parts were again reunited in the hands of Spain, and by her conveyed to France; in which state the entire province of Louisiana was ceded to the United States in 1803, that in accepting the cession and paying for the Territory ceded the U. States understood and believed that they paid for the country as far as the Perdido, as part of Louisiana; and that on a conviction of their right, they included in their laws provisions adapted to the cession in that extent—it cannot fail to be a cause of surprise to the Prince Regent, that they did not proceed to take possession of the territory in question as soon as the treaty was ratified. There was nothing in the circumstances of Spain at that time, that could have forbidden the measures. In denying the right of the U. States to this territory, her government invited negociation on that; and every other point in contestation between the parties. The United States accepted the invitation, in the hope that it would secure an adjustment and reparation for e

[*Continued in this day's Star.*]