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FROM COBBETT'S POLITICAL REGISTER.

TO THE PRINCE REGENT,

ON THE DISPUTE WITH AMERICA.

SIR,

When I closed my last letter to your Royal Highness upon this subject, it was my intention to forbear any further remonstrance with you thereon, and to leave *time* to be the teacher. But, the intelligence, arrived from America since the date of that letter, has made me depart from that intention, and has induced me to make one more effort to convince you, that, without further measures in the way of conciliation, peace with America is not likely to be restored.

The very day on which my last letter was printing (Friday last) was marked by the promulgation of tidings from America, that the congress had *revoked the declaration of war*, and that the American general in Canada had *entered into an armistice* for 30 days; and that both these had taken place in consequence of the revocation of our orders in council. A few hours were sufficient to dissipate these falsehoods, fabricated, no doubt, for the purpose of deceiving the people of this "most thinking" country. The deception would last, in all human probability, for only a few days; but, at the end of those days, a new falsehood would be invented, and the old one lost in that. This falsehood, however, does not appear to have lived even 48 hours; for the very next day after its promulgation brought forth the contradiction—brought forth the complete proof of fabrication. Surely, sir, the people of America must despise us! The must despise, or, at least, pity, a nation who are made the sport of such vile literary impostors; base hireling, who prostitute the press to all the purposes hostile to truth and freedom.

The authentic intelligence received from America appears to be, in substance, this: that the American government has received intelligence of the repeal of our orders in council, but, that it is by no means satisfied therewith, and means to demand a redress of all its alledged grievances, before it lays down its arms. In confirmation of this, the following paragraph has been quoted from a paper deemed the demi-official paper of the American government.

"The orders in council of the British government are *now no longer a question* with the United States. The question of peace now requires only a proper and a vigorous use of the ample means which the government is possessed of, to render it speedy, decisive, and glorious. Peace, when it comes, must bring with it *more than the confession* of British outrage by the retraction of its avowed tyranny. It is not *a mere cessation to do wrong* that can now produce a peace; wrongs done must be *redressed*; and a *guarantee must be given in the face of the world*, for the restoration of our enslaved citizens, and the respect due to our flag, which like the soil we inherit, must in future secure all that sails under it. The rights of neutrals must be recognized; and the British, like the first tyrants of the Swiss, must no longer expect a free people to bow down, and worship the symbols of British usurpation."

Did I not tell you so, sir, in my very last letter?—Did I not say, that America would now demand "*indemnity for the past and security for the future?*" I wished to guard your royal highness against deception, and I, for that purpose, entered into an argument to show that we ought not to expect America to make peace with us upon our having barely *ceased to commit* what she asserted to be a violation of her rights. I told your royal highness, that she, for more than one reason must demand something more than a mere *cessation* to do what she declared to be a wrong. In short, if I had been informed, when I wrote my last letter, of what I now *know*, I could not have written otherwise than I then did.

I, therefore, have, I think, some claim to attention from your royal highness, especially as I have all along told you, that the repeal of our orders would not, *alone*, be sufficient. When the repeal took place, upon the death of Mr. Perceval, and when Mr. Ponsonby and Mr. Brougham were reported to be making pledges to support a war against America, if that repeal did not satisfy her; at *that time*; at that important moment, when conciliation might have been rendered complete; even then, without a moment's delay, I told your royal highness, that the repeal of the orders would not, of itself, be enough, and as will be seen by the passage taken for my motto, I most earnestly besought you to put a stop, of your own accord, to the impressment of persons on board of American ships. If *this* had been done, sir; if this measure, so strongly recommended by me, had been adopted *then*, we should now have seen our ports crowded with American ships to take away our manufactures, instead of hearing of hundreds of American privateers cruizing against our commerce.

The Courier and Times newspapers, two of the most corrupt in England, make certain remarks upon the paragraph which I have quoted from the American demi-official print; and, as these remarks embrace assertions and notions that are false, it is necessary, or, at least, it may be useful, to put the matters of which they treat in a fair light.

The Courier has this paragraph: "Here, then, is an open avowal, that nothing will satisfy the American government but the *abandonment of the right of search*, and the acknowledgement of the principle, that free ships make free goods. *Perish the idea of peace, if it is only to be made on such terms.* Yet this the American government calls "an anxious desire to accommodate all differences upon the most reasonable conditions!!!"

The Times says: "In this philippic, *redress* is not only claimed for the supposed wrongs inflicted by this country, but it is declared, that the "American flag must *in future secure all that sails under it.*" This is adopting, in its fullest extent, the language of Bonaparte, that "free ships make free goods." If that principle be maintained by the American government, and supported by the American legislature, we see not the slightest prospect of a speedy termination of hostilities."

Thus, then, these good hirelings are for war, rather than give up what they call the "*right of search.*" They are hardly so stupid as not to know, that the Americans do not contend for our abandonment of *the right of search*, in the usual sense of those words; they must know, that, as far as to search ships at sea (or rather to visit them) has been sanctioned by the usage of nations, the Americans are ready to submit to it; but, sir, this right of search is very different indeed from that of which these good hired writers are speaking.

There is a right of search, or of visit, acknowledged by all the nations of Europe. When a nation is at war, she claims the right of visiting all neutral merchant ships at sea, in order to see that they do not assist her enemy by carrying warlike stores or troops for him; and, if she find them thus taking part with her enemy; if she find them thus transgressing the general usage of nations, she siezes them, as, indeed, she has just cause for doing, seeing that they are, in fact, engaged in the war against her. And the right of visiting them, to see whether they be thus transgressing, has been, by us, called *the right of search.* We have contended for, and have, for some time past, been able to maintain, an extension of this right to the *goods of an enemy* found in a neutral ship; though it is to be observed, that our ally, Russia, and our ally, Sweden, as well as Denmark and Holland, in all times, have contended against this right. But, what have these to do with the searching of which Americans complain? They complain, not that we seize contraband of war on board their vessels; not that we confiscate ships or cargoes where there are enemy's troops, or enemy's goods; but, that we stop their vessels upon the high seas, and that there we TAKE OUT OF THEM WHATEVER PERSONS WE PLEASE. This is what they complain of; and, the fact is notorious, that we have, in this way, taken many thousands of persons out of American ships, carrying on their trade quietly from one part of the world to another. It is notorious, that many of the persons thus seized were citizens and native Americans; that they have been taken on board of our ships of war; that they have been kept there for years; that they have been taken to all parts of the world; that many of them have been wounded, many have lost their limbs, and many killed, in a service which they abhorred, being compelled to fight against those with whom they had no quarrel.

There is no man of any consideration, who will attempt to say, that this is right. It must of necessity, have created deep rooted ill will against us in America, where the sea faring people are not a class of individuals who have neither house nor home, and whose state is desperate. A vessel, in America, is often manned by people all living in the same village; and, the impressment, the destruction of one, must be felt by the whole, and by the whole of the neighbourhood also. Hence the heart burnings in America against England. The confiscation of ships and cargoes under the orders in council, together with the dreadful distress to the captains and crews, produced great effect against us; but, great as it was, it fell short of the effect produced by the impressment of American seamen.

It has been said, that, if we give up the exercise of this power of impressment, our sailors will desert to the American ships. But, suppose the fact to be so: what is that to America? It is not her fault. She does not force them out of our service. She does not compel them to desert. If they really do like her service better than ours, she cannot help that. We may as well complain of her for having such a country as our artisans and manufacturers prefer to their own, and, upon that ground, go and search her country for our deserted artisans and manufacturers, who emigrate to her shores in defiance of our laws. Really, sir, I can see no just cause of complaint against her because our men desert to her ships. It is for us to keep our men, if we wish them not to go into her service; and not to complain of her for receiving them.

It is a practice wholly unknown in the world before. We have never, that I have heard of, attempted to exercise such a power against any nation but America. It is true, that all our officers who may visit her ships may not conduct themselves in a manner such as she has complained of—but it not less true, that they are *left entirely to their own discretion.* They are, it is true, not authorised to take *Americans* out of American ships—but, then, it is left to them, and must be wholly left to them, to decide *who are, and who are not, Americans.* This being the case, it is clear that every American ship's crew who meet an English ship of war at sea are *at the mercy* of the commander of that ship of war! No more need be said; for no man likes to be at the mercy of another.—The English captain has, in this case, the power of seizure, of imprisonment, of banishment, and, indeed, what power has he not over the American crew? They may produce proof of being natives of America, and then he is not authorized to seize them. Aye! but he, alas! is the sole and absolute *judge of that proof*, which he may think *bad*, and then it may as well not be produced.

This is the view to take of the matter, sir.—The corrupt press of London may, and will, bewilder the minds of the people, by talking about the right of search and the like; but the plain fact is this: that, in consequence of this authority given to our ships of war, to take persons out of American ships at sea, the crew of every American merchant ship that went to sea, or even from one port to another in America, were at the absolute mercy of the commander of the first English ship of war that happened to meet them. Suppose the case, sir, of an American captain sailing out of the Delaware for the East Indies with his complement of men, being twenty, all his neighbors, met by an English sloop of war—suppose him to have six of his men taken in spite of all his assurances of their being native Americans; suppose him to pursue his voyage with only fourteen hands; suppose the six seized men be taken off to the West Indies; suppose two or three die of the yellow fever; another to be killed; another lose an arm, and the sixth released by the intervention of the American consul at London. Suppose this case, sir, and you will suppose *what may have happened.* It was possible for such cases to happen, and that was enough; but it was a thing which admitted of being rendered impossible. It is sufficient to say, that in consequence of this power, no American could, in a merchant ship, sale the sea in safety. He never was, for one single hour, secure against captivity and banishment. To a people so situated war must be a *relief.* The American seamen will prefer war, because if captured in war, the laws of war protect him, and feed him as a *prisoner*—whereas he was before liable, not only to be seized and carried from his calling and country, but at the same time compelled to act as a seaman on board of our ships; compelled to labor and to risk his life in our service, where it might be his lot to assist in serving others of his own countrymen as he himself had been served.

Sir, when you take a dispassionate view of this matter, I am quite sure, that the justice of your mind will decide you in favor of an abandonment, a frank abandonment, of the exercise of this power, which is, I am satisfied, without a precedent in the usage of nations, and which, under the present circumstances, can do nothing towards the safety of the country.

If this point were once settled, it appears to me that much difficulty would not remain.—But, as I had the honor to state to your Royal Highness, it is not to be supposed, that war is to *cease* the moment we *cease to do wrong* to America. I have not taken upon me to say, whether our Orders in Council were a wrong, or not; but by the repeal, we seem to have acknowledged that they were. If then, they were a wrong, the cessation of them cannot be considered as sufficient to induce America to put up the sword at once, and without further ceremony. When I published what was called a libel, in the year 1809, that is to say, when I published an expression of my feelings at what had then been described as having taken place, at the town of Ely, (where the bank has since broken,) with respect to the local militia and the German legion; when I made that publication I *ceased*—I made only one of that sort; yet, sir, was I, at the distance of a year after the publication, sentenced to be imprisoned for two years, and to pay a thousand pounds fine to your royal sire, & which thousand pounds I have paid to you in his behalf. So you see, sir, that, after one has done a thing, or has been doing a thing, it is not always sufficient *to cease* to do it; the ceasing to do that which is deemed wrong, is not always regarded as sufficient to appease, or disarm the offended party. The last part of my punishment, the payment of the fine to you, in behalf of your royal sire, was inflicted at more than three years distance from the time of my writing about the local militia and the German legion.—There may, perhaps, in the law of nations, be an exception from the general principles in cases where a kingly government commits an offence, or alledged offence, against a republic; but, in my small reading, I have, I must confess, never met with any such exception.

Therefore, I, for my part, was not at all surprized to see the American demi official print announce, that *compensation for the past*, and *security for the future*, would be required. "It is not, "says the writer, "a mere *cessation to do wrong* that can now produce a peace; wrong done must be *redressed*, and a *guarantee* must be given in the face of the world." Yes, sir, just as in my case, who, after imprisonment and fine, was compelled, before I was released, *to enter into bonds*, to give a *guarantee*, as the republican writer calls it. Indeed, sir, the history of the world is full of cases in support of this doctrine of the Americans. When your royal brother invaded Holland, it was not sufficient that he *ceased* to penetrate into the country; for, when he got back to *the Helder*, tho' he had then entirely *ceased* to be an invader, and appears to have very properly confined his wishes to the safe bringing off of his army, the republican Generals *Brune* (the "printers boy of Limosin") and *Daendals*, insisted upon the surrender to France and Holland of *eight thousand* of their seamen, who were then prisoners of war in England; this they insisted upon "as the price of permission to the British troops, with whom the duke of York had invaded Holland, to re-embark on board their transports *without molestation.*"

This was a compensation for injury, not *done*, but *attempted.* If the royal commander had said, "I have *stopped*; I have *ceased*; I am going away; *what more do you want?*"—If he had thus addressed the republican generals they would have tho't him cracked in the brain. His royal highness knew a great deal better. He took the effectual way of giving his opponents satisfaction, & thus he was enabled to bring off his army without molestation.

Here, then sir, are two instances of the soundness of the American doctrine; that a mere cessation of an offensive act is not, as a matter of course, deemed a satisfaction to the party offended. Nay, in my case, that was single; it was committed in a moment; it at once ceased; there was no remonstrance; no expostulation; the single act was seized hold of, and my printer and publisher and one of the news-men, tho' they did not attempt to defend *their* conduct, but confessed their crime, declared on oath that they were wholly unconscious that they were publishing a libel and humbly sued for mercy; though they did all this, *yet they were all imprisoned.*

Upon what principle, then, I ask, can these corrupt writers imagine, that America is to be satisfied with the mere repeal of our Orders in Council; that is to say, with the mere cessation of the acts offensive to her? Upon what ground is it that the country, in which the proceedings against me took place, can expect this at her hands?—I do not say that we were doing her wrong; I do not take upon me to decide that question. If we were not doing her wrong, however, why did we repeal? If we were not doing her wrong, why did we yield at her manaces? If we were not doing her wrong, we should not have given way; and, if we were doing her wrong, we should have gone further; for, upon the principles on which I was punished, & on which the sans-culotte generals insisted upon your royal brother's giving up of 8000 prisoners of war then in England; upon those principles a *mere cessation* to do what gives offence is not considered as a sufficient atonement to the offended party.

The President of the U. States has seen himself ridiculed and most grossly abused in our venal newspapers, who, amongst other qualities not more to be admired, have ascribed to him that of *cowardice.* Such language does not tend to harmony; and, though (thank God!) Mr. Madison cannot, by his obstinacy, or to indulge any old grudge, plunge his country into a war; yet, he certainly has the power to render the way to peace more difficult. I must, however, do him the justice to say, that I do not believe him capable of imitating, for one single moment those detestable miscreants, whom history has but too frequently exhibited in the act of rendering millions miserable for the purpose of gratifying some stupid, some idiot-like, some hog like passion. But, without being under any such influence, and without supposing any very strong prejudice against England in the minds of the people of America, there are, I fear, reasons enough to induce Mr. Madison to be in no haste to listen to terms of peace.

America has long felt the power of England; she has long been compelled to endure that which she detested; she is covered with scars of our inflicting; and she will not forget all this now that she has arms in her hands. I have before pointed to your Royal Highness of what importance it is to her that we should have nothing to do in the affairs of Spain. The war in Spain is, in fact, more fearful to America where it is most promising in appearance to us. She will never rest contented while there is a chance of our having any influence in Spanish South America. Of Napoleon she is not afraid in that quarter. He has no fleet to endanger her commerce; and, besides, her present exertions against us may, perhaps, secure her his assent to her wishes on that flank of her territories.

As to our internal situation she is well aware of it. The army in Canada is not better known to her than the army in the "*disturbed counties.*" Mr. Madison is very well acquainted with the causes of our disturbances; he has read before now all the evidences taken at the Bar of Parliament: he has seen it *proved* that the people of England are suffering greatly from the non importation of their goods into America; he is well aware of the wants of our army in Spain, Portugal & the Mediterranean; and he knows that a war with his country must soon plunge us into the greatest distress.

It is with a knowledge of all these that Mr. Madison enters on the war; and under such circumstances, it appears to me impossible that he should listen to any terms of peace not including ample indemnity for the past. The American prints seem to insist upon a guarantee for the release of the American seamen whom we have impressed. This, I should hope, there would be no objection to; and, indeed, I hope that your Royal Highness's ministers will *now*, at the eleventh hour, do every thing in their power to procure us the restoration of *honorable* peace; I hope that England is not doomed to wage war against every man in the world who is in the enjoyment of real liberty. I know, sir, that there are, in England, men who abhor the American government and people, and who would, if they had the power, exterminate them both, merely because the one guarantees and the other enjoys freedom. Such men will never be happy while they see a freeman in the world; but, their malice will not be gratified; they will, though it blast their eye sight, still see the Americans free. Such men always speak of America with disdain; they affect to consider her as nothing; they seem to think that no ceremony is necessary with her; that even when she has declared war, and has actually begun war, she is bound to leave off merely upon our ceasing to do her wrong, if wrong it be. Such men would, of course, think it a mortification *to send over to her pacific overtures*, which one of them already calls *suing for peace.* Far from your Royal Highness be counsels like these! This was the language with regard to the republicans of France; but, the haughty Pitt was glad, at last, to be permitted to send overtures of peace to those republicans.—I hope, therefore, that we shall in this case, be wise in the out set, which is far better than *wisdom at the close.*

The whole case is now before you, sir; war or peace is in your power. That you may choose the latter is the earnest wish of your Royal Highness's faithful servant,

WM. COBBETT.

Botley, 23d Sept. 1812.

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF GEORGIA.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives,

After a forbearance to which there is scarcely a parallel to be found in the history of any independent nation, the United States have been at length compelled, in vindication of their honour and for the maintenance of their indubitable rights, to declare war against G. Britain. A detail of the causes which produced this act of our government, is, I presume, neither expected nor desired from me at this time; they have been communicated to Congress by the constitutional organ, the President of the United States, in a lucid and dignified address, which you have all seen and no doubt possess. The insolent and arbitrary domination assumed by the British, to control by her naval power the rights of this country, and the measures adopted by our government with a view of bringing the corrupt and corrupting ministry of Great Britain to a sense of justice, have been felt by Georgia with as much severity as any other State in the Union. Her planters had long been in the habit of raising articles for exportation, from which they derived their principal resources, and depended upon importations from abroad for their annual supplies; hence they felt with peculiar effect the want of that intercourse from which they derived their greatest advantage; yet no selfish views ever operated upon their minds, or impaired their confidence in the government or the wisdom of their measures; on the contrary, they have under every difficulty and privation maintained a firm republican and constitutional character, which I am confident they will still maintain. No difficulties or privations will ever induce them to submit to degradation and dishonor. And permit me to ask, if a submission to the black catalogue of British aggression would not be a submission to degradation and dishonor? It assuredly would. Let us, therefore, maintain the character we have acquired, and unite heart and hand in support of the government, and the contest in which our country is now engaged—it is a contest sanctioned by justice and prompted by necessity, and under the guidance of Divine Providence we shall obtain the objects for which we contend.

When we contemplate the present situation of this State, our attention is irresistibly directed to our extensive frontier. Our sea coast, from the river Savannah to that of St. Mary's inclusive, is indented by numerous inlets, affording sufficient depth of water for armed ships of considerable force; to oppose the entrance of which there are few works of defence—the population thin, and a vast property to invite the attention and satisfy the cupidity even of British cruizers.

From the mouth of St. Mary's to the termination of our line on the Tugalo river, we have an extent of frontier, of between three and four hundred miles; the territory immediately beyond which is occupied by numerous tribes of restless and warlike savages of doubtful faith, some of whom we may already consider our enemies (the Seminoles), and the rest, although at this time professing a desire to remain at peace, may soon and unexpectedly be induced by the arts and intrigues of old friends, and the still more powerful influence of large presents, to become hostile to us. With due preparation, however, the State is capable of defending herself against any hostile attempt of British cruizers or Indian enemies.—Our citizens of the middle and western parts are numerous, hardy and brave, and are not only capable of defending themselves against the Indians, but would march at a moment's warning to the assistance of their fellow citizens on the sea board in case of need, who although equally brave, are less numerous, and consequently less able to defend their extensive and vulnerable coast; but to do this, the citizens must have arms, and they must be taught to use them, as well as the duties of the camp. These considerations have induced me to press upon your intention a thorough revision of our militia laws, and of making provision for the purchase of arms and ammunition, &c.—In the defence of our sea coast, it will not escape your attention that artillery are of vast importance—and yet, there is not a single company out of the city of Savannah in the whole of the first brigade. This is no doubt owing to the great expense attending the equipment and support of such corps, which but a few are able to sustain.—Permit me to recommend to your consideration the proyriety of making some provision for the encouragement of this description of troops.

Knowing of no manufactory of swords and pistols within the State, my attention has been directed to other States for a supply of those articles, as contemplated by the act of last session, for the use of the cavalry; but I find the prospect of procuring them so remote and uncertain, that I shall attempt to have the swords made at home, and I am flattered with the hope of having this done in a style of workmanship superior to those imported for common use, and at a much cheaper rate. The manufacture of them will commence immediately in this place, and will produce about five dozen every week. I shall use my utmost efforts to have the pistols made in the State also. These are objects which in our present situation claim the fostering care of the Legislature.

In the course of last summer the Secretary of War of the U. States, by order of the President, called upon this State, under the authority of an act of Congress, to detach from her militia three thousand five hundred, which has been done accordingly. These men thus detached are liable to be called into actual service whenever the President shall so direct, and ten companies of them have been called for and are now detained for six months. It is possible, nay, very probable, that many of those men now on duty have left families or relatives at home, whose principal dependence for support was upon their labor, or whose little property may be at the mercy of a creditor for an inconsiderable debt. Some legislative provision in such cases would, in my opinion, be both reasonable and just, and may be done without impairing the just rights of others. By a prudent liberality on the part of the State, the indulgent or infirm family or relative of the soldier and his little property may be relieved and preserved, whilst he in return is in all probability, spilling, or at any rate ready to spill his blood in her defence.

In March last, a revolution commenced in East Florida, and from the part taken by the commissioner of the United States, and the movement of their troops, I flattered myself that they had determined on the immediate occupation of the whole province.

The progress of this revolution became extremely interesting to Georgia, and I am indebted to the vigilance & attention of Brig. Gen. Floyd, for the first and a regular continuance of information upon the subject, from which I soon began to suspect that the course pursued would not only fail of success, but that our frontier in that quarter might soon be involved in much difficulty and distress. Under these impressions, and conceiving that if the general government had determined upon the occupancy of the Province, they would have communicated the fact to the government of Georgia, and placed the State on her guard against a failure of the enterprize, since in that event she would be the immediate sufferer, I wrote a letter to the Secretary at War, stating my apprehensions of the evil consequences that were likely to result to Georgia from the manner in which the proceedings in Florida were conducted, and requested that the contents of my letter might be communicated to the President. Before that letter had reached its destination, I received one from the Secretary of State by order of the President, in which he declares, that the proceedings of the agent in the transactions in Florida were unauthorised, and calling upon me, as Governor of the State, to act for the general government, inasmuch as the interests of Georgia were implicated as well as those of the United States; and also containing instructions as to the course which it was expected he would pursue in so delicate and important a transaction. It required but a few days to dispatch such public business as was then in the executive office, and to prepare every thing necessary to admit of my absence. This being accomplished, I proceeded without delay to St. Mary's, as the most convenient spot where I could by mail have a free communication with any part of the Union, and with the Governor of East Florida, and col. Smith, the commander of the American troops, at the same time. On my arrival at that place, I found the progress of the revolution stopped before St. Augustine, the patriots being unable to alone to attack that formidable post, and the American troops not permitted to act on the offensive. In a short time I sent to Augustine in compliance with the instructions I had received, and a correspondence between the person then acting as Governor & myself commenced, which, however, soon terminated, in consequence of the Spaniard preferring the application of force to remove the American troops, which he actually tried on the 16th May, to the more tedious operation of having it done by negociation in a peaceful manner. The experiment, however, did not succeed, and the troops kept their ground. The letters of the Secretary of State to me of the 2d and 27th May last, will explain the reason why the troops were not withdrawn; they are reasons founded on the soundest principles of policy as well as justice and humanity, and they apply to our present situation and the present situation of East Florida with double force.

The confidence with which I anticipated the declaration of war against G. Britain, led me with equal confidence to anticipate an enlargement of the powers of the President by Congress as the necessary consequence, having for object the entire occupancy of E. & W. Florida. That this should have been the course pursued, I was extremely solicitous; knowing, as I did, and still do, that the interests of Georgia would be effectually promoted by that event, and the views and wishes of the general government at the same time accomplished. The senate of the U. S. however, in their wisdom had different views of the subject, and the matter was permitted to remain as before the war. It is nevertheless my sincere and candid opinion, that the peace and safety of this State will be hazarded, if the occupancy of East Florida by our government is relinquished, or much longer delayed. The present force in Augustine is of a description which we cannot tolerate; the mode of warfare which the governor of that place has commenced, so savage and barbarous, that it is impossible for an American to hear of it without feeling the utmost indignation and resentment against the power who commands or even permits it. I recommend this subject in an especial manner to your most serious consideration, as involving not only your immediate interest, but your future peace and happiness. It is with real pleasure that I assure you of my entire confidence in