MESSAGE

From the president of the United States, inclosing a report of the secretary of state, on the violation of the flag of the United States, the impressment of American seamen and others, on board American vessels, conformable to a resolution of the senate of the United States of the Nov. 2, 1803.

LETTER

Of the president of the United States to the senate.

To the Senate of the United States,

IN compliance with the desire of the senate, expressed in their resolution of the 22d of November, on the impressment of seamen in the service of the United States by the agents of foreign nations, I now lay before the senate a letter from the secretary of state, with a specification of the cases of which information has been received. TH. JEFFERSON.

December 5, 1803.

Letter from the Secretary of State to the president.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
December 2, 1803.

SIR,

Agreeably to a resolution of the senate, passed the 22d of last month, requesting the president of the United States, to cause to be laid before them such information as may have been received, relative to the violation of the flag of the United States, or to the impressment of any seamen in the service of the United States, by the agents of any foreign nation; I do myself the honor to transmit to you the inclosed abstract of impressments of persons belonging to American vessels, which, with the annexed extracts from the letters of some of our agents abroad, comprises all the information on the subject that has been received by this department since the report to congress, at its last session, relative to seamen. To the first-mentioned document I have added a summary, shewing the number of citizens of the United States impressed, and distinguishing those who had protections as citizens; those who are stated to be natives of the British dominions, and not stated to be naturalized as citizens; and those of all other countries, who are equally not stated to have been naturalized citizens in the United States.

Another source of injury to our neutral navigation has taken place in the blockade of Guadaloupe and Martinique, as notified in the annexed letter from Mr. Barclay, consul-general of his Britannac majesty for the eastern states.

Besides the above, I have received no official information of any material violations of our flag during the present European war, except in the recent aggressions of the emperor of Morocco.

With very high respect,
I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
JAMES MADISON.

The president of U. S.

ABSTRACT

Of impressments of seamen belonging to American vessels, by agents of foreign nations.

Edward Bass, a native of Philadelphia, impressed at London some time in March or April last, and put on board of the Mars. This man had been impressed into the British service during the late war, and was confined therein until peace. Upon the breaking out of the war again, as he was on the point of departing for his country, he was impressed a second time into the British service. He was without a custom-house protection.

Robert Carter Gilliam, native of Sussex county, Virginia, impressed from the American vessel Warren, then lying at the port of London, in March or April last. He was without a protection.

John Leland Wade, native of Bristol county, Massachusetts, (having lost his protection) was impressed at Liverpool in April last, from the brig Mahela Winsor, and put into the Courageux.

William Hall, Henry Clark and James Clark, Irishmen, not stated to be citizens of the United States, impressed at London the 10th May, from the American ship Industry. No protections.

Christopher Tillinghast, native of North Kingston, Rhode-Island, impressed into the British ship Loire, off Ireland, on the high seas, on 20th May, from the American ship Sterling. Without a protection.

John Roberts and John Backham, the former a Dane and the latter a Swede, impressed on the 25th May, in the North Sea, from the American ship Shepherdess, John Bryan, master, into the British frigate Amelia, lord Proby, master. Without protections.

Barnabas Otis, jun. native of Plymouth, Mass. impressed on the 29th May, in the English channel, into the British frigate Immortalite, —— Owens, commander, from the American brig Hannah. No protection.

Samuel Wilson, a native of Maryland, Andrew Sampson and Peter Thompson, natives of Curracoa and Norway, but American citizens, impressed on the 31st May, 1803, from the American ship Martha, Henry Waddel, master, at London. Without protections.

William Brown, a citizen of the United States, impressed at Cuxhaven, on the 5th June, from the American schooner Astrea, and put into the British frigate Amethyst. He had a protection.

John Daniel Kessler, John Anderson and Michael Jones, impressed on the 6th June, from the American ship William and Jane, off the port of Cork, and put into the British ship Loire. It is not stated that they are American citizens, or that they had protections.

Richard Redman, on the 7th June, 1803, impressed at Hull, (Eng.) into the British service, from the American ship Atlas, Sweeny Wilson, master. It is not stated whether he had a protection, or of what country he is a citizen.

Denny Sweeny, a native of Ireland, and without a protection, impressed on the 7th June, in the North Sea, into the British frigate Amelia, lord Proby, master, from the American ship Washington.

Wm. Ireland, a native of Suffolk county, N. York, impressed from the American ship Alknomac, John Gore, master, at Falmouth, Jamaica, by a press gang belonging to the Desiree, captain Ross, or the armed brig Racoon, though he shewed a protection given by the collector at New-York, dated the 26th April last. This impressment was made on the 22d June last.

Joseph Simonds and Sylvester Pendleton, native Americans and residents of New-York, and John Table, a black man, impressed about the 7th July, off the Texel, from the American schooner Recovery, Josiah Shackford, master, into the British sloop of war, Harpy, Edmund Heywood, commander. Without protections.

Ephraim Vandfwer, an American citizen, and native of New-York, with a protection as such, impressed from the schooner Perseverance, Daniel Coyle, master, on the 18th July, off Tiberoon, into the British sloop of war Snake.

Josiah Hunt, native of Newburyport, Mass. impressed the 17th July last, from the American brig John, Jona. Titcomb, into the British ship Emerald, then in sight of Martinico. Without a protection.

John Whiting, native of Gloucester, Mass. impressed at the same time, from and into the same vessel. No protection in this case.

Nathaniel Keene, an American citizen, who had been in slavery at Algiers, and who had a protection, which he left thro' forgetfulness at New-York, impressed on the 18th July, at Folkstone, into the British service, from the American ship Maryland, John Wickham, master.

Joseph Stevens, an American citizen, with a protection as such, impressed from the schooner Perseverance, Daniel Coyle, master, on the 18th July, off Tiberoon, into the British sloop of war Snake.

William Evans, an Englishman, without a protection, and Thomas Challis, an American citizen, impressed at Cork, on the 19th and 26th June, from the American ship Joseph, James Jamason, master.

James Emmerson, native of Lincoln county, Mass. impressed from the American schooner Harriet, Nathaniel Knight, master, into the British schooner St. Lucia, —— Shipley, master, then lying in the road of Basseterre, on the night of the 20th July. No protection.

Benjamin Ellridge and William Finney, natives of Falmouth, Mass. impressed on the 20th July from the American schooner Hannah, in the road of Basseterre, into the British schr. St. Lucia, —— Shipley, master. No protection.

Three seamen, names unknown, belonging to the American vessel Mark and Mary, John Mookler, master, were impressed on the 29th July into the Emerald British vessel, captain O'Brien, near the north end of Martinico, tho' the vessel from which they were taken was then in a leaky condition. Under these circumstances, captain Mookler was ordered to leave the coast of Martinico, as the island was blockaded, and he put into Dominica, but could stay there only a very short time, from the violence of the sea, which set into the harbor. He again put to sea, and before his return to Dominica, sustained considerable loss in the washing overboard of a great part of his deck cargo, which consisted of lumber. One of the men impressed had a custom-house protection.

William Whipp, native of New-Haven, Connecticut, and John Simpson, of Virginia, impressed into the British sloop of war Sylph, July 30, 1803, on the high seas, from the American ship Phœton, —— Bousb, master. No protections.

George Arnold, native of Great-Britain, and John Williamson, a Swede, both without protections, impressed the 31st July, on board the British frigate Cambrian, William Brodley, commander, from the American ship Venus, Lemuel Bruce, master, upon the high seas.

Two seamen, citizens of the U. States, and posted of protections as such, which they shewed to the British officers, impressed into the British frigate Boston, captain Douglas, just after she had passed the territorial line of the United States, about the last of July.

William Liddle, (it is not stated whether he be a citizen of the United States) impressed from the Juno the 3d August, on her passage from Norfolk to Amsterdam, into the British frigate Thetis.

John M'Evoy, (an Englishman, and without a protection) impressed from the American brig Paisley, John Jackways, master, on the 9th August, into the British frigate Boston, captain Douglas, off the Chesapeake.

James Farnish, mate, and Neill Lang, seamen of the American brig Drake, on her voyage to Barbados, were impressed the 12th August last, upon the high seas, into a British frigate, name of which is not known. The crew which remained in the Drake was found to be too weak for working her, in consequence of which the captain was obliged to put into Antigua, the nearest port that he could make, to the great loss of the adventure.

David Kitchell, a native citizen of the United States, at the mouth of Delaware bay, was impressed into the British ship Leander, captain Cain, the 22d August, 1803, from the American sloop Hiland, John Hand, master, on a voyage from Philadelphia to Alexandria. Kitchell, it is believed, was without a custom-house protection.

Oliver Harris, a native of Boston, on the 14th August, was impressed into the British ship Blenheim, from the American schooner Harriet, near the island of Martinique. No protection in this case.

Charles Tracy, an American citizen, impressed on the 25th August from the ship Marion, Wm. D. Seton, off Delaware, into a British frigate, name unknown. No protection.

James Davis and Henry Wood, black men, impressed at Liverpool, on the 1st September from the American ship Chatham. No protections.

Samuel Robinson, an American, with a protection, Christian Moldenham and Christian Lowman, Danes, with Danish protections, impressed the 5th September on the high seas, from the American ship Flora, Caleb Harrison, master, into the British frigate Cambrian.

Thomas Doyle, native of Philadelphia, and a seaman belonging to the American brig Hector, impressed at Lisbon, the 6th September into the British sloop of war Bittern, then at that port. Doyle had a protection.

Samuel Watt, Andrew Pace, and John Davis, the former having a protection as an American citizen, and the two latter being natives and subjects of Great-Britain, were impressed on the 11th September from the American ship Charlotte, Thomas Hasam, master, about ten miles east of Cape-May, into the British sloop of war Driver.

James Matthews, chief mate of the schooner Amazon, John Murray, master, impressed on the 14th September, 1803, into the British armed brig Geochi Pine, in the West-Indies. No protection.

William Watson, a native of Connecticut and with a protection, impressed the 29th September, from the American ship Ontario, Seaman Weeks, master, into the British frigate Cambrian, upon the high seas.

Thomas Cook and George Wilson, the former a native of New-York, the latter of Scotland, both without protections, impressed October 1st from the ship American Packet, Solomon Swain, master, at sea, about 8 leagues from the light-house, at Sandy-Hook, into the British frigate Perseverance.

Henry Cobb, native of Falmouth, Massachusetts, impressed into the Loire, British ship. It was not stated when, or whether he had a protection.

Daniel Walker, a native of Philadelphia, impressed from the American ship Fox, into the British frigate Boston. No protection, and the time of impressment not stated.

Jesse Dillings, native of Wethersfield, Connecticut, impressed into the Dreadnaught British ship. No protection; time not stated.

Richard Johnson, a native of Middletown, Connecticut, impressed into the British service. No protection; time not stated.

Joseph Mace, native of Newburyport, Massachusetts, impressed into the British ship Isis. No protection; time not stated.

Samuel Hills, native of Providence, R. I. impressed into the English ship Britannia. He had a protection; time not stated.

Henry Kipps, a native of Hamburg and a naturalized citizen of the United States, impressed into the British frigate Endymion, from the American ship Eagle. No protection; time not stated.

William Chandler, a British subject taken into the English service at Falmouth, Jam. from the American ship Anna, Caleb Johnson, master. No protection.

William Fegarie, belonging to the American brig Sally, claimed by the French at St. Pierres, Guadaloupe, as a citizen of France, and kept as such. Time not stated.

Nicholas Bullea, by birth a Frenchman, impressed into the service of France from the brig Joseph, at St. Pierres. Time not stated.

Joseph Nicholson, a black man, with a certificate of freedom, impressed from the American brig Canton, at Surinam, on the 5th October, into a Dutch frigate.

Summary of impressments by the British from American vessels.

Forty-three impressments of citizens of the U States appear to have been made, of whom twelve had protections:

Ten, natives of the British dominions, and not stated to be naturalized as American citizens; and

Seventeen of all other countries, who are not stated to have been naturalized in the United States.

Summary of impressments by the agents of other powers, from American vessels.

Two, by the agents of France.

One, by the agents of the Batavian republic.

Department of state, Dec. 2, 1803.

EXTRACTS OF LETTERS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Extract of a letter from James Maury, esq. consul of the United States at Liverpool, to the secretary of state, dated March 24, 1803.

"I had the honor to write to you on the 25th ultimo, since which the alarm of war has occasioned a great press for seamen. Many of ours, confident as I suppose, in the continuance of peace, had not taken the caution before leaving home, to be furnished with regular documents of citizenship, which exposes them to impressment.

Extract of a letter from John W. Fox, esq. consul of the United States at Falmouth, to the secretary of state, dated May 14, 1803.

"The impress is very severe. The citizens of the United States are not molested; two or three without protections and on board British ships have been taken. I have made application for their release, but it is necessary that the seamen should bring certificates of their citizenship with them, otherwise they will run great risk of being impressed."

Extract of a letter from Wm. Savage, esq. agent of the United States for the relief and protection of their seamen at Jamaica, to the secretary of state, dated June 25, 1803.

"There has been a hot press throughout this island. In this port about sixty seamen have been taken out of American vessels, immediately after which I made application to the admiral, who liberated the American citizens. Some few vessels on the north side have lost their men and have experienced distress from the measure.—The names of the persons impressed I have a minute of, and on the arrival of the frigates in which they are, I shall make application for their discharge.

Copy of a letter from Thomas Barclay, esq. consul-general of his Britannic majesty, for the eastern states of the United States, to the secretary of state, dated October 20, 1803.

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose you the copy of a letter which I received from commodore Hood, commander in chief of his majesty's ships of war on the windward station, notifying the blockade of the islands of Martinique and Guadaloupe by the squadron under his command.

I have the honor, &c. &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BARCLAY.

[COPY.]

Centaur, off Martinique, July 25, 1803.

SIR,

I beg you will have the goodness to acquaint the American government, and agents of neutral nations, that the islands of Martinique and Guadaloupe are, and have been blockaded by detachments of his majesty's squadron under my command, since the 17th June last, that they may have no plea for attempting to enter the ports of those islands. By your acknowledging the receipt of this, you will greatly oblige,

Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
(Signed) SAMUEL HOOD.
Commodore and commander in chief.

THOMAS BARCLAY, ESQ.
Consul-general, &c.

LEGISLATURE OF MARYLAND.

Saturday, December 3.

The bill for the benefit of John Carrere, of the city of Baltimore, was read the second time and passed.

Mr. Lemmon, from the committee, delivered to the speaker a bill entitled, "An act to authorise the levy court of Baltimore county to assess and levy a sum of money for the purpose therein mentioned;" which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Ridgely, from the committee, delivered to the speaker the report respecting Thomas B. Randal, which was read.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of the city and county of Baltimore, praying an act may pass establishing a college for the education of youth in the city aforesaid, or the precincts thereof, and authorising the trustees to be appointed as aforesaid, to raise by lottery the sum of thirty thousand dollars, and to receive certain donations for the purpose of erecting the necessary buildings for the said college, and that the private institution, which is now conducted in the city aforesaid by James Priestley, may be continued until the college buildings are erected; was preferred, read and referred to Messrs. Dickson, Montgomery, Van Horn, Sudler, Lourey, Dugan, and Cottman, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from Samuel Norwood, of Baltimore county, praying an act may pass authorising him to build a toll bridge over the river Patapsco, on the road leading from Baltimore to the Federal city, was preferred, read and referred to Messrs. Van Horn, Clarke, Brown, Montgomery and Calvert, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from James Lytle, John Manhs and others of Harford county, stating that they are about building a college, or seminary of learning in the town of Abbingdon, in the county aforesaid, and praying that a law may pass for enabling them to carry their laudable purposes into effect, was preferred, read and referred to Messrs. Forwood, Montgomery and E. Davis, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Frederick county, praying an act may pass authorising commissioners to lay out the road running by Benjamin Routsawn's, so as to intersect the road leading from Hager's-Town, to Middle-Town, at the county line, was preferred, read and referred to Messrs. Hawkins, Kershner and Clarke, to consider and report thereon.

On motion, leave was given to bring in an additional supplementary act, entitled, "An act for the relief of creditors, and to prevent frauds and deceits occasioned by secret sales, mortgages and gifts of goods and chattles." Ordered, that Messrs. Bayly, Van Horn and Mercer, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The house resumed the consideration of the bill for the valuation of real and personal property, within this state, agreeably to the order of the day, and after some time progressing therein, the question was put, that the said bill be recommitted for the amendment. Determined in the negative. On motion, ordered, that the further consideration of the said bill be postponed.

A petition from sundry Quakers, inhabitants of Cæcil county, stating that they are not permitted to serve on juries, praying relief, was preferred, read and referred to the committee appointed to bring in a supplement to the bill, directing the riffs and coroners in the return of juries.

The clerk of the senate delivered the following message:

By the Senate, December 3, 1803.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

"Believing it would greatly promote the interest of the state to close the session of the legislature as soon as the business of the public will admit, and having nearly finished all the business before us, we propose with the concurrence of your house, to close the session on the 15th instant. By order,

J. B. DUCKETT, Clk.

Which was read.

And a bill, entitled, "An act to prevent slaves hiring themselves or acting as free, and to repeal the act of assembly therein mentioned. Endorsed by the senate, November 30, 1803. Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

By order,
J. B. DUCKETT, Clk.

By the senate, December 3, 1803. Read the second time and will pass.

By order,
J. B. DUCKETT, Clk.

Which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

HAMBURG, October 26

A private letter received here yesterday evening, from Bayonne, announces the arrival there of general Angereau, who is to command the French army destined to plunder Portugal. His army then amounted to 40,000 men, and reinforcements were daily arriving. This letter asserts, that Spain, instead of having consented to the passage of the French troops strenuously resisted the measure, and that the negociations on the subject remained in a state of incertitude.

Bonaparte has lately sent instructions to his agents at those courts, whose sentiments towards him appear dubious, to obtain an assurance, that those powers will not attack France by land during the continuance of the war with England.

Letters from Trieste state, that a Russian fleet is soon expected in the Mediterranean from the Black Sea. This news is generally believed in Italy, where several Russian officers have bought up considerable quantities of corn and pulse. It is said that the Russian fleet will join the Turkish, to prevent the war's being transferred to Egypt or other parts of Turkey, and to preserve the strictest neutrality.

It is now known, that the new propositions for peace which were made in London by the first consul and the emperor of Russia, at the same time, have not been accepted by the king of England, as they proposed an armistice.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 12.

Arrived on Saturday, the ship Cheeseman, Greenfield, in 42 days from Amsterdam. The only vessels arrived there after the sailing of the Aspasia, were the ships Andromache, Pearce, and the brig Francis Nixon, both from New-York. The former arrived the 20th and the latter on the 17th October. A ship, supposed to be the Commerce, Ogilvie, or the Rising States, Shaler, from New-York, arrived the day before the Cheeseman sailed. The ship Young Factor, Gardner, and the Commerce, Lawson, of Newport, for Newport and New-York, sailed 10 days before. The ship Essex, Orne, came out with the Cheeseman, bound to India.

Same day, the sch'r Generous Friend, Channing, in 19 days from Point-Petre, Guad. Left, brigs Peace, Brown, of Newburyport; Juno, Folansbe, of do. to sail 22d December. [This brig on the 27th October, spoke the sch'r Hannah, Richardson, from Boston, in the lat. 27, dismasted, had been knocked on her beam ends, but since arrived at Basseterre, in 37 days passage]; schrs. Flower, Bailey, of New-London, to sail the 20th December; Abbe Thule, Haines, of Charleston, 26th December; Rising States, Brown, Rhode Island, 20th December. The brig Franklin, Waite, for Portland, sailed in company. Spoke, Nov. 3, sch'r Polly, Morris, 18 days from Newburyport. Nov. 28, a French armed schooner, full of men, on a cruize.

Same day, the ship Rose-in-Bloom, Farnum, in 9 days from Charleston.

Same day, the schr. Nancy, Luther, in 8 days from Plymouth, N. C.

Same day, the schr. Henry, Brown, in 9 days from Newbern.

Same day, the schr. Polly & Betsy, in 9 days from North Carolina.

Same day, brig Lioness, Smith, 9 days from Charleston. On the 6th instant, off the Capes of Virginia, spoke an English cruizer.

Same day, brig Neptune, Latham, in 8 days from Savannah. Left brig Washington, to sail next day; brigs George and Lovely Lass, unknown. The brigs Dean, and Happy Couple, had arrived there from this port.

Same day, the schooner Fair Trader, Waterbury, in 9 days from Murfreesborough, N. C.

Same day, the schooner Majestic, Smith, in 10 days from Murfreesborough, N. C.

Same day, sloop North-Carolina, Dimond, from Washington, N. C.

Arrived yesterday, the brig Neptune, Hillard, in 25 days from Surrinam. Left, to sail in a few days, brigs Harriet Stevenson, for Portland; Neptune, Cross, ditto; Betsy, Arnold, for Newport; Industry, Bates, for Boston; ——, Williams, for Norfolk; ——, Tucker, for Salem; Dolly, Bass, for Philadelphia. Passed at the mouth of the river, the brig Ceres, or some such name, and two other American