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Sir,

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I have the Honour to apply to your Excellency for a favour the Justice of which I flatter myself you will perceive as well as the good consequences that may arise from it.

The rigour with which France prepares to carry war against Great Britain deprives the privateers armements of every means of composing their crews in the manner they are in time of peace. most part of the Sailors are employed in the Royal navy; and the merchantmen, as well as the privateers are obliged to make use of such men as they can find without much examination. amongst there a number of foreigners of all nations engage to make the voyage; but are no sooner arrived in another country, that they desert without views, without aim, and only — moved by the spirit of inconstancy that drove them from their native land. —

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND