

presaging flashes of heroic enterprise assure that nothing is wanting to correspondent triumphs there also, but the discipline and habits which are in daily progress.

*From the London Gazette.*

**DECLARATION.**

The earnest endeavors of the Prince Regent to preserve the relations of peace and amity with the United States of America, having unfortunately failed, his royal highness, acting in the name and behalf of his majesty, deems it proper to declare the causes and origin of the war in which the government of the U. States has compelled him to engage.

No desire of conquest or other ordinary motives of aggression has been or can be, with any color of reason, in this case, imputed to G. Britain; that her commercial interests were on the side of peace, and that war could have been avoided, without the sacrifice of her maritime rights or without any injurious submission to France, is a truth which the American government will not deny.

His royal highness does not however mean to rest on the favorable presumption, to which he is entitled. He is prepared by an exposition of the circumstances which have led to the present war, to shew that G. Britain has throughout acted towards the U. States of America, with a spirit of forbearance and conciliation; and to demonstrate the inadmissibility of those pretensions, which have at length unhappily involved the two countries in war.

[Here the declaration enters into an historical account of the Berlin and Milan decrees; and other hostile measures of France towards neutrals: the consequent embargo, non-intercourse and non importation acts of the American Congress, and the different diplomatic representations and explanations which have taken place on those subjects between G. Britain and America, the particulars of all which have been long before the public. The declaration then continues.]

The American government, before they received intimation of the course adopted by the British government, had in fact proceeded to the extreme measure of declaring war; and issuing "letters of marque," notwithstanding they were previously in possession of the Report of the French minister for foreign affairs, of the 12th of March, 1812, promulgating anew the Berlin and Milan decrees, as fundamental laws of the French empire, under the false and extravagant pretext, that the monstrous principles therein contained were to be found in the Treaty of Utrecht, and were therefore binding upon all states. From the penalties of this code no nation was to be exempt which did not accept it, not only as the rule of its own conduct, but as a law, the observance of which it was also required to enforce upon G. Britain.

In a manifesto accompanying their declaration of hostilities, in addition to the former complaints against the orders in council, a long list of grievances was brought forward; some trivial in themselves, others which had been mutually adjusted, but none of them such as were ever before alleged by the American government to be grounds for war. As if to throw additional obstacles in the way of peace, the American Congress at the same time passed a law prohibiting all intercourse with Great Britain of such a tenor, as deprived the Executive government, according to the President's own construction of that act, of all power of restoring the relations of friendly intercourse between the two states, so far at least as concerned their commercial intercourse until Congress should reassemble. The President of the U. S. has, it is true, since proposed to G. B. an armistice; not however, on the admission that the cause of war hitherto relied on was removed; but on condition, that G. B. as a preliminary step, should do away a cause of war, now brought forward as such for the first time; namely, that she should abandon the exercise of her undoubted right of search to take from American merchant vessels British seamen, the natural born subjects of his Majesty; and this concession was required upon the mere assurance that laws would be enacted by the Legislature of the U. S. to prevent such seamen from entering into their service; but independent of the objection to an exclusive reliance on a foreign state for the conservation of so vital an interest, no explanation was, or could be afforded by the agent who was charged with this overture; either as to the main principles upon which such laws were to be found, or as to the provisions which it was proposed they should contain. This proposition having been objected to, a second proposal was made, again offering an armistice, provided the British government would secretly stipulate to renounce the exercise of this right in a treaty of peace. An immediate and formal abandonment of its exercise as preliminary to a cessation of hostilities, was not demanded; but his Royal Highness the Prince Regent was required, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, secretly to abandon what the former overture had proposed to him publicly to concede.

This most offensive proposition was also rejected, being accompanied as the former had been by other demands, of most exceptionable nature, and especially of indemnity for all American vessels detained and condemned under the orders in council, or under what were termed illegal blockades—a compliance with which demands, exclusive of all other objections, would have amounted to an absolute surrender of the rights on which those orders and blockades were founded. Had the American government been sincere in representing the orders in council as the only subject of difference between Great Britain and the United States, calculated to lead to hostilities; it might have been expected, so soon as the revocation of those orders had been officially made known to them, that they would have spontaneously recalled their "letters of marque," and manifested a disposition immediately to restore the relations of peace and amity between the two powers. But the conduct of the government of the United States by no means corresponded with such reasonable expectations. The orders in council of the 23d of June, being officially communicated in America, the government of the United States saw nothing in the repeal of the orders in council which should of itself restore peace, unless

substantially to relinquish the right of impressing her own seamen when found on board American merchant ships. The proposal of an armistice, and of a simultaneous repeal of the restrictive measures on both sides, subsequently made by the commanding officer of his majesty's naval forces on the American coast were received in the same hostile spirit by the government of the United States. The suspension of the practice of impressment was insisted upon in the correspondence which passed on that occasion, as a necessary preliminary to a cessation of hostilities; Negotiation, it was stated, might take place without any suspension of the exercise of that right; and also without any armistice being concluded; but G. Britain was required previously to agree without any knowledge of the adequacy of the system which could be substituted, to negotiate upon the basis of accepting the legislative regulations of a foreign state, as the sole equivalent for the exercise of a right, which she has felt to be essential to the support of her maritime power.

If America, by demanding this preliminary concession, intend to deny the validity of that right, in that denial G. Britain cannot acquiesce; nor will she give countenance to such a pretension, by acceding to its suspension, much less to its abandonment, as a basis on which to treat. If the American government has devised, or conceives it can devise, regulations, which may safely be accepted by Great Britain, as a substitute for the exercise of the right in question, it is for them to bring forward such a plan for consideration. The British government has never attempted to exclude this question from amongst those on which the two states might have to negotiate. It has, on the contrary, uniformly professed its readiness to receive and discuss any proposition on this subject, coming from the American government: it has never asserted any exclusive right as to the impressment of British seamen from American vessels, which it was not prepared to acknowledge, as appertaining equally to the government of the United States, with respect to American seamen; when found on board British merchant ships: But it cannot, by acceding to such a basis in the first instance, either assume, or admit that to be practicable, which when attempted on former occasions, has always been found to be attended with great difficulties, such difficulties as the British commissioners in 1806 expressly declared, after an attentive consideration of the suggestions brought forward by the commissioners on the part of America, they were unable to surmount.

Whilst this proposition, transmitted to the British admiral, was pending in America, another communication on the subject of an armistice was unofficially made to the British government in this country. The agent from whom this proposition was received, acknowledged that he did not consider, that he had any authority himself, to sign an agreement on the part of his government. It was obvious that any stipulations entered into, in consequence of this overture, would have been binding on the British government, whilst the government of the United States would have been free to refuse or accept them according to the circumstances of the moment. This proposition was therefore necessarily declined.

After this exposition of the circumstances which preceded, and which have followed the declaration of war by the U. States, His royal highness the Prince regent, acting in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, feels himself called upon to declare the leading principles, by which the conduct of G. Britain had been regulated in the transactions connected with these discussions.

His Royal Highness can never acknowledge any blockade whatsoever to be illegal, which has been duly notified and is supported by an adequate force, merely upon the ground of its extent, or because the ports or coasts blockaded are not at the same time invested by land. His Royal Highness can never admit, that neutral trade with G. Britain can be constituted a public crime, the commission of which can expose the ships of any power whatever to be denationalized. His Royal Highness can never admit that G. Britain can be debarred of its rights of just and necessary retaliation, through the fear of eventually affecting the interest of a neutral. His Royal highness can never admit that in the exercise of the undoubted and hitherto undisputed right of searching neutral merchant vessels in time of war, the impressment of British seamen, when found therein, can be deemed any violation of a neutral flag. Neither can he admit the taking such seamen from on board such vessels, can be considered by any neutral states as a hostile measure, or a justifiable cause of war.

There is no right more clearly established, than the right which a sovereign has to the allegiance of his subjects, more especially in time of war. Their allegiance is no optional duty which they can decline, and resume at pleasure. It is a call which they are bound to obey; it began with their birth, and can only terminate with their existence. If a similarity of language and manners may make the exercise of this right liable to partial mistakes and occasional abuse, when practised towards vessels of the U. S.—the same circumstances make it also a right, with the exercise of which, in regard to such vessels, it is more difficult to dispense. But if, to the practice of the U. S. to harbor British seamen, he added their assumed right to transfer the allegiance of British subjects, and thus to cancel the jurisdiction of their legitimate sovereign, by acts of naturalization and certificates of citizenship, which they pretend to be valid out of their own territory, as within it it is obvious that to abandon this ancient right of G. Britain, and to admit these novel pretensions of the U. S. would be to expose to danger the very foundation of our maritime strength.

Without entering minutely into the other topics, which have been brought forward by the governments of the U. S. it may be proper to remark, that whatever the declaration of the U. S. may have asserted, G. Britain never did demand, that they should force British manufactures into France; and she formally declared her willingness entirely to forego, or modify in concert with the U. S. the system, by which a commercial intercourse with the enemy had been allowed under the protection of licences; provided the U. S. would act towards her, and towards France with real impartiality. The government of America, if differences between

notice the affair of the Chesapeake. The aggressor, in this instance, on the part of a British officer, was acknowledged, his conduct was disapproved, and a reparation was regularly tendered by Mr. Foster on the part of his majesty, and accepted by the government of the U. S. It is not less unwarranted in its allusion to the mission of Henry; or a mission undertaken without the authority, or even knowledge, of his majesty's government, and which Mr. Foster was authorised formally and officially to disavow. The charge of exciting the Indians to offensive measures against the United States is equally void of foundation. Before the war began, a policy the most opposite had been uniformly pursued, and proof of this was tendered by Mr. Foster to the American government. Such are the causes of war which have been put forward by the government of the U. S. But the real origin of the present contest will be found in that spirit, which has long unhappily actuated the councils of the U. S. their marked partiality, in palliating and assisting the aggressive tyranny of France; their systematic endeavors to inflame their people against the defensive measures of G. Britain; their ungenerous conduct towards Spain, the intimate ally of G. Britain! and their unworthy desertion of the cause of other neutral nations. It is through the prevalence of such councils that America has been associated in policy with France, and has joined in her attacks on G. Britain.

And under what conduct on the part of France has the government of the U. States thus lent itself to the enemy? The contemptuous violation of the commercial treaty of the year 1800 between France and the United States; the treacherous seizure of all American vessels and cargoes in all the harbors subject to the control of the French arms; the tyrannical principles of the Berlin and Milan decrees, and the confiscation under them; the subsequent condemnation under the Rambouillet decree, antedated or concealed to render it the more effectual; the French commercial regulations which render the traffic of the U. States with France almost illusory; the burning of their merchant ships at sea long after the alleged repeal of the French decrees; all these acts of violence on the part of France produce from the government of the U. S. only such complaints as end in acquiescence and submission, or are accompanied by suggestions for enabling France to give the semblance of a legal form to her usurpations, by converting them into municipal regulations. This disposition of the government of the U. S.; this complete subserviency to the Ruler of France; this hostile temper towards Great Britain, are evident in almost every page of the official correspondence of the American with the French government. Against this course of conduct, the real cause of the present war, the Prince Regent solemnly protests. Whilst contending against France, in defence not only of the liberties of G. B. but of the world, his royal highness was entitled to look for a far different result. From their common origin—from their common interests—from their professed principles of freedom and independence, the U. S. were the last power in which Great Britain could have expected to find a willing instrument and abettor of French tyranny. Disappointed in this his just expectation, the Prince Regent will still pursue the policy which the British government has so long and invariably maintained, in repelling injustice and in supporting the general rights of nations; and, under the favor of Providence, relying on the justice of his cause, and the tried loyalty and firmness of the British nation, H. R. A. confidently looks forward to a successful issue of the contest in which he has been compelled most reluctantly to engage.

February 9. 1813.

The following are the documents alluded to in the President's message commenced in our first page:—

**BERMUDA, alias SOMERS' ISLANDS.**

By his excellency brig. gen. Geo. Horsford, lieutenant-governor and commander in chief in and over these islands, &c. &c.

**A PROCLAMATION.**

Whereas earl Bathurst, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, has transmitted to me the copy of an act, passed during the last sessions of parliament, authorising the exportation of certain enumerated articles from these islands to the U. S. and the importation in neutral vessels of certain articles, being of the growth or production of the said U. S. into these islands; which act is contained in the following words, viz:—Whereas it is expedient to allow sugar and coffee, the produce of any British colony or plantation in the West Indies, imported into the Island of Bermuda in British ships or vessels, to be exported from the port of St. George in the said island to the territories of the U. S. in foreign ships or vessels: and to allow certain articles of the growth or production of the territories of the said U. S. to be imported into the said island in foreign ships or vessels, and to be re-exported from them in British built ships or vessels to British islands in the West Indies; be it therefore enacted by the king's most excellent majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that it shall be lawful for sugar and coffee, the produce of any British colony or plantation in the West Indies, imported into the island of Bermuda in any British ship or vessel, to be exported from the port of St. George, in the Island of Bermuda, to any port of the territory of the U. S. in any foreign ship or vessel belonging to any country in amity with his majesty, above the burthen of sixty tons; any law now in force to the contrary notwithstanding.

2. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to import any tobacco, pitch, tar, turpentine, hemp, flax, masts, yards, bowsprits, staves, heading, boards and plank, timber, shingles, and lumber of any sort, horses, neat cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, and live stock of any sort, bread, biscuit, flour, peas, beans, potatoes, rice, wheat, oats, barley, and grain of any sort, such commodities being of the growth or production of the territories belonging to the U. S. from the said territories to the port of St. George in the island of Bermuda, in any foreign ship or vessel

belonging to any country in amity with his majesty, any thing in any act passed in the 28th year of his present majesty's reign, or in any other to the contrary notwithstanding.

3. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any of his majesty's subjects to export any of the articles before enumerated, which shall have been imported in any ship or vessel from the territories of the U. S. into the island of Bermuda from the said port of Saint George, to any of his majesty's islands or dominions in the West Indies, in British built ships and vessels, owned and navigated according to law; I do, therefore, issue this my proclamation, to the end that all persons whom it doth, shall or may concern, being duly apprised thereof, may govern themselves accordingly.

Given under my hand, and the great seal of the Islands, this 11th day of January, 1813, and in the 53d year of his majesty's reign.

GEORGE HORSFORD.

By his excellency's command,  
ROBERT KENNEDY.

**BERMUDA, alias SOMERS' ISLANDS.**

By his excellency brig. gen. Geo. Horsford, lieutenant-governor and commander in chief in and over these islands, &c. &c.

**A PROCLAMATION.**

Whereas I have received a copy of his royal highness the prince regent's order in council bearing date the 13th of October, 1812, which order is contained in the following words, viz: Whereas by act of parliament, passed in the 52d year of his majesty's reign, entitled "an act to allow British plantation sugar and coffee imported into Bermuda in British ships, to be exported to the territories of the U. S." &c. it is provided that certain articles shall be allowed to be exported from the port of St. George, in the Island of Bermuda, to the territories of the U. S. in any foreign ships or vessels belonging to any country in amity with his majesty, above the burthen of sixty tons; and that certain articles of the growth or production of the territories of the said U. S. shall be allowed to be imported into the said island in any foreign ships or vessels in amity with his majesty. And whereas it is expedient that the governor of the said island should be authorized to grant licenses for the continuance of such trade with the U. S. notwithstanding the present hostilities. His royal highness the prince regent, in the name and on behalf of his majesty, is pleased, by and with the advice of his majesty's privy council, to order, and it is hereby ordered that the governor of the island, or the lieutenant governor or other officers administering the government thereof, for the time being, shall be authorized and empowered, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to grant licenses, permitting the articles allowed to be exported by the said act to be imported by the said act (except tobacco) to be imported from and into the said island, respectively to and from the U. S. in foreign ships, agreeably to the said act, without molestation, on account of the present hostilities, and notwithstanding the cargoes as aforesaid may be the property of any citizen or inhabitant of the U. S. or the property of any British subject trading there with.

And whereas I have deemed it expedient and necessary to make known and publish the same within this his majesty's government; I do, therefore, issue this my proclamation, to the end that all persons whom it doth, shall or may concern, being duly apprised thereof, may govern themselves accordingly.

Given under my hand and the great seal of these Islands, this fourteenth day of January, 1813, and the 53d year of his Majesty's reign.

GEORGE HORSFORD.

A Bill is now before the Legislature of Pennsylvania, for a new organization of the militia of that State, and is comprised on 88 pages of large cap papers. It is said that if it passes into a Law, there is an end to civil liberty. It violates the most solemn privileges of the Constitution. It converts the freemen of that Commonwealth into conscripts. It authorises the military to trample into dust the civil power of the State. In short it is said to be one of the most audacious and wicked attempts to build up an armed despotism over conscience, right and liberty, that even was attempted since the days of Nero.

**WANTED,**

*An Elegant GRAY HORSE.*

ENQUIRE AT THIS OFFICE.

March 12

**Notice.**

AS Attorney for Messrs Livingston, and Fulton, Patentees for Steam Boats in the United States, and the territories thereof, I will receive subscriptions to form a stock to complete a line of Steam Boats, through the N. Carolina waters, &c. to the E. Florida line, and will appoint suitable and respectable persons through the different states to receive subscriptions, of which when appointed I will give due notice.

JOHN D. DELACY.

Feb. 24.

**State of North Carolina,**

WAKE COUNTY.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, February Term, 1813.

Westward A. Jones, } Original attachment, levied in the hands of Henry }  
vs. } Whitehead, William Ship, }  
William Ship, sen. } jun. and James Rigby. }

It is ordered by the court that publication be made in the Minerva for six weeks, that unless the defendant replies and pleads, within the three first days of the next term of this court judgment final will be entered against him.

Cfy, BENJ. S. KING, c. c.

**Printing,**

Executed at this office, with neatness and the utmost accuracy.