...az, in your letter of the 5th inst. ...ned the charge of my having sai... ...t "British licence," after the ...ement of the late war, in con... ...of information received by you ...entleman entitled to the fullest ...at I was not afloat, until after ..., consequently the report which ...ed of my having sailed under ...licence, must be unfounded.— ...only to remark, on this head, ...advancing a charge against me ...ous a nature, and designed and ...l ulated, as it was, to effect, ...y, my reputation not only as ...r of the navy, but as a citizen ...United States, you should first ...ertained that it was founded in ...l not on rumor, which you so ...rp upon; and that upon a pro... ...stigation you would have dis... ...your other accusations to be ...groundless. For my not retur... ...he during the late war, I do not ...self, to use your own expres... ...in any way accountable to you" ...would be for the government, I ...uppose, to take notice of my ab... ...they deemed it reprehensible; ...no doubt would have done so, ...the circumstances of the case, in ...mation, justified it. That they ...ctly satisfied upon this point, I ...od reason to believe, and trust I ...able to satisfy my country also. ...esident's personal conduct to me ...memoral of the Virginia Dele... ...Congress, to him, prove how I ...ith those high characters, your ...notwithstanding, to the contra... ...deny, sir, that I ever was "ur... ...my friends, as you in mockery ...em, to return home during the ...nor could it have been requisite ...to have been "urged" to do so ...one.—Laying patriotism out of ...stion, as you observe, as well as ...ons why you think "it behoved ...adopt that course, there were ...ncentives strong enough, God ...to excite a desire on my part to ...and I should have returned, sir, ...circumstances beyond my control. ...t is not incumbent on me to ex... ...you.

...the many opportunities really ...ed themselves which you allege ...every day occuring," of which I ...ave availed myself to return to ...ntry in privateers or other fast ...merchant vessels, from France ...r places, but of which you pro... ...other proof than random as... ...on which most of your other ...rest? There were no such op... ...tles as you say "were every day ...ng;" no, not one within my reach ...some considerable time after the ...the war arrived in Denmark, it ...believed that it would continue ...oths; but, if I had received the ...should have been employed on ...turn, I should have considered ...crifice too great, no exertion ...my power should have been omit... ...obtain so desirable an object, as ...ark of my country's confidence ...have been to me in such a mo... ...agan boat, under my own orders ...at have been refused; but what ...ad I when my letter of application ...vice was not even honored by an ...? In regard to the John Adams ...ot deem it proper on this occasion ...ain my reasons for making the ...t to return in that ship; but when... ...am called on by any person pro... ...authorized to make the enquiry, I ...fident that I shall convince them, ...had good reason to believe that I ...obtain a passage in her notwith... ...g your great knowledge on the ...n.

...say, by absenting myself, "for ...from the country, without leave ...e government," I "subjected my... ...be stricken from the rolls." I kn... ...by the 10th article of the act for ...ter government of the navy, that ...sons in the navy holding inter... ...with an enemy became subject ...severest punishment known to the ...and that, for these offences, as you ...leased to term them, "I have not ...d, to your knowledge even a re... ...d;" but I presume if I have not ...not your fault. What kind and ...forbearance this, after what I ...already endured! But, sir, as you ...o be so very intelligent upon other ..., pray tell me where was the ne... ...of my asking for a furlough un... ...period of my suspension expired, ...n after having reported myself for ...without being noticed. As to the ...of my holding intercourse with ...emy, I am at a loss to conceive to ...you allude, and should degrade ...by giving it any other reply than ...nounce it, if you mean to insinuate ...was any unlawful or improper com... ...ation on my part with the govern... ...or any individual of Great Britain, ...false and foul aspersion on my char... ...which no conduct or circumstance ...life, however it might be tortured ...ur malice or ingenuity, can, in any ...er, justify or support. You say, ...that you *do know* "that my pay, ...during my absence, was *continued*" It is not the fact, sir; I never, ...until very recently since my return ...ed but half pay. This part of ...letter I should not have regarded, ...t not to shew with what boldness, ..., and *sang froid*, you can make ...ions unsustained by the shadow of truth; but, if you had made yourself acquainted with the circumstances relative to my *half pay*, you would have found that not one cent of it was received by me. The government was so good as to pay the amount to my unfortunate female family, whose kindest entertainment you have frequently enjoyed.—Poor unfortunate children! whose ancestors, every man of them, did contribute every disposable shilling of their property, many of them their lives, and all of them their best exertions, to establish the independence of their country, should now be told that the small amount of my half pay was considered, by an officer of high rank, too much for them! You have been good enough to inform me that, on my return to this country, my "*efforts*," as you have been pleased to call them, "to re-instate myself in the service were known, and became a subject of conversation with officers as well as others;" and, but for those "efforts," it is *more than probable* you would not have *spoken of me*. This would indeed have displayed a wonderful degree of lenity and courtesy on your part, of which I could not have failed to be duly sensible. But, sir, I beg leave to ask how, and where, did you get your information, that such "efforts" were made by me; and even admit they were, why should you *alone*, disclaiming, as you pretended to do, all "*personal enmity*" against me, have made yourself so *particular busy* on this occasion?—Was it because your inflated pride led you to believe that the weight of your influence was greater than that of any other officer of the navy or that you were more tenacious of its honor and "respectability," than the rest of the officers were? You assure me, however, "that, in the interchange of opinion with other officers respecting me, you have never met with more than one who did not entirely concur with you in the opinion you have expressed of me." Indeed! and what is the reason? It is because I suppose you are most commonly attended by a train of dependents, who, to enjoy the sunshine of your favor, act as *calcerers* for your vanity; and, revolving around you like *satellites*, borrow their chief consequence from the countenance you may *condescend* to bestow upon them. You at length, arrive at the main point; the "object" of my letter of the 23d ultimo which you might have reached by a much *shorter route*, and have saved me the fatigue of being compelled, in self defence, to travel with you so far as you have gone. The language of defiance, represented to have been used by you, "that you would cheerfully meet me in the field, & hoped I would yet act like a man," are disavowed by you. And you further deny having ever invited me to the field, or expressed a hope that I would call you out; but you observe that "being informed by the gentleman with whom I had *conferred* upon the subject, that I left Norfolk, for the seat of government, some time before our June correspondence, with the intention of calling you out, you stated to that gentleman, as you have to *all others* with whom you have conversed upon the subject, that if I made the call, you would meet me; but that upon all scores, you would be much better pleased to have nothing to do with me. I certainly do not *exactly* know who that intermeddling gentleman was, with whom you say I "conferred:" but, if I may be allowed a conjecture, I think I can recognize in him the self same officious *gentleman*, who, I am credibly informed originated the report of your having made use of the gasconading expressions you have disowned:—In this respect I may be mistaken. But be this, however, as it may, I never gave him or any other person, to understand that my visit to Washington last spring was for the purpose of "calling you out," nor *did* I go there with *any such view*.

How you can reconcile your affected indifference towards me, in the remark "that, on all scores you would be much better pleased to have nothing to do with me," with the very active part which, it is generally known, and which your own letter clearly evinces, you have taken against me, I am at a loss to conceive. No, sir you feel not so much unconcern as you pretend and wish it to be believed you do. In regard to the course of conduct my honor and my injuries may in my judgment, require me to pursue. You have a *motive*, not to be concealed from the world, for all you have done or said, or for any future endeavors you may make, to bar my "re-admission" into the service. It is true, you never gave me a direct, formal, and written, invitation to meet you in the field, such as one gentleman of honor *ought* to send to another. But, if your own admission, that you had "incautiously said you would meet me if I wished it," and "that if you had not *pledged yourself*, you might re-consider the subject," and all this too without any provocation on my part, or the most distant intimation from me that I had a desire to meet you, not amount to a challenge. I cannot comprehend the object or import of such declarations—made as they were in the face of the world; and to those in particular, whom you knew would not only communicate them to me, but give them circulation; under all the circumstances of the case, I consider you as having thrown down the gauntlet, and I have no hesitation in accepting it. This is, however, a point which it will not be for you or me to decide, nor do I view it as of any other importance than as respects the privilege allowed to the challenged party in relation to the choice of weapons, distance, &c. about which I feel not more "fastidious," I assure you, sir, than you do; nor do I claim any advantage whatever, which I have no right to insist upon;—could I stoop so low as to solicit any, I know you too well to believe you would have any inclination to concede them.—All I demand is to be placed upon equal grounds with you; such as two honorable men may decide upon, *as just and proper*. Upon the subject of duelling *I* perfectly coincide with the opinions you have expressed. I consider it as a barbarous practice which ought to be exploded from civilized society; but, sir, there may be causes of such extraordinary and aggravated insult and injury, received by an individual, as to render an appeal to arms, on his part, absolutly necessary: mine I conceive to be a case of that description, and I feel myself constrained, by every tie that binds me to society, by all that can make life desirable to me, to resort to this mode of obtaining that redress due to me at your hands, as the only alternative which now seems to present itself for the preservation of my honor.

To conclude you say, "from my manner of proceeding, it appears to you that I have come to the determination to fight some one, and that I have selected you for that purpose." To say nothing of the vanity you display, and the importance you seem to attach to yourself, in thus insinuating, that being resolved to *fight myself* into favor, I could no otherwise do so than by fixing upon you, the very reverse of which you infer is the fact; I never wished to fight in this way, and had you permitted me to remain at rest, I should not have disturbed *you*; I have pursued the "even tenor of my way," without regarding you at all. But this would not have suited your ambitious views. You have *hunted* me out, have persecuted me with all the power and influence of your office, and have declared your determination to attempt to drive me from the navy, if I should make any "efforts" to be employed, and for what purpose, or from what other motive than to obtain my rank, I know not: if my life will give it to you, you shall have an opportunity of obtaining it. And now, sir, I have only to add, that, if you will make known your determination, and the name of your friend, I will give that of mine, in order to complete the necessary arrangements to a final close of this affair. I can make no other apology for the apparent tardiness of this communication, than merely to state, that, being on very familiar terms with my family, out of tenderness to their feelings, I have written under great restraint. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES BARRON.

NO. 10.

Washington, 29th December, 1819.

Sir: Your communication of the 30th ultimo reached me as I was on the eve of my departure for the north; whence I did not return till the 22d instant. It was my determination on the receipt of your letter, not to notice it; but upon more mature reflection, I conceive, that I have suffered myself to be drawn into this unprofitable discussion. I ought not to leave the false coloring and calumnies, which you have introduced into your letter, unanswered. You state, that a much more laconic reply to your letter of 23d October would have served your purpose. Of this I have no doubt; and to have insured such an answer, you had only to make a laconic call. I had already informed you of the course I had felt myself bound to pursue respecting you, and of the reasons which induced my conduct, and that, if you required it, I would overcome my own disinclination, and fight you. Instead of calling me out for injuries which you chose to insist that I have heaped upon you, *you* have thought fit to enter into this war of words.

I reiterate to you, that I have not challenged, nor do I intend to challenge you. I do not consider it essential to my reputation that I should notice any thing which may come from you, the more particularly, when you declare your sole object, in wishing to draw the challenge from me, is, that you may avail yourself of the advantages which rest with the challenged. It is evident, that you think, or your friends for you, that a fight will help you; but, in fighting, you wish to incur the least possible risk. Now, sir, not believing that a fight of this nature will raise me at all in public estimation but may even have a contrary effect, *I* do not feel at all disposed to remove the difficulties that lay in your way. *If* we fight, it must be of your seeking, and you must take all the risk and all the inconvenience which usually attend the challenger, in such cases.

You deny having made the communication to the British consul at Pernambuco, which Capt. Lewis and Mr. Goodwin have represented. The man capable of making such a communication, would not hesitate in denying it; and until you can bring forward some testimony, other than your own, you ought not not to expect that the testimony of those gentlemen will be discredited. As to the veracity of the British consul, *I* can prove, if necessary, that you have, yourself vouched for that.

You offer, as your excuse for not returning to your country, during our war with England, that you had not been invited home by the then Secretary, notwithstanding you had written him, expressive of your wishes to be employed. You state, that, if you "had received the slightest intimation from the Department, that you would have been employed on your return, you would have considered no sacrifice too great, no exertion within your power should have been omitted to obtain so desirable an object." From this, *I* would infer, that, in consequence of not receiving this intimation, you did not make the exertions in your power to return and take hold to be an insufficient excuse. You do not pretend to have made any attempt, except by the way of the cartel, the John Adams.

You cannot believe, that reporting yourself to the Department, at the distance of 4,000 miles, when the same conveyance which brought your letter would have brought yourself, will be received as evincing sufficient zeal to join the arms of your country: and besides, you say it was not believed, for a considerable time after the news of war arrived in Denmark, that the war would last six months. With those impressions, you must have known, that it would have occupied at least that time for your letter to have arrived at the Department, you to receive an answer, and then to repair to America. You deny that the opportunities of returning were frequent. The custom house entries at Baltimore and New-York alone, from the single port of Bordeaux, will shew nearly an hundred arrivals: and it is well known, that it required only a few days to perform the journey from Copenhagen to Bordeaux, by the ordinary course of post.—You deny having been advised to return to this country, by your friends, during the war. Mr. Cook, of Norfolk, your relative, says, he wrote to you to that effect; and Mr. Forbes, then our consul at Copenhagen, who is now at this place, says, he urged you in person to do so.

You have charged the officers who concur with me in opinion respecting your claims to service, as being my satellites. I think I am not mistaken, when I inform you, that all the officers of our grade, your superiors as well as inferiors, with the exception of one, who is your junior, concur in the opinion, that you ought not to be employed again, whilst the imputations which now lie against, remain: nor have they been less backward than myself in expressing their opinions.

Your charge of my wishing to obtain your rank, will apply to all who are your juniors, with as much force as to myself. You never have interfered with me in the service, and at the risk of being esteemed by you a little vain, *I* must say, *I* do not think you ever will. Were *I* disposed to kill out of my way, as you have been pleased to insinuate, those who interfere with my advancement, there are others, my superiors, who *I* consider fairly barring my pretensions; and it would serve such purpose better, to begin with them. You say, you were the means of obtaining me the first command *I* ever had in the service. *I* deny it; *I* feel that *I* owe my standing in the service to my own exertions only.

Your statement, that your advice prevented me from resigning on a former occasion is equally unfounded. *I* have never, since my first admission into the navy, contemplated resigning; and, instead of being ordered, as you state, from the first lieutenancy of the New York, to the second of the Chesapeake, Commodore Chauncey, who was then flag captain, can testify, that *I* was solicited to remain as 1st lieutenant of the flag ship; and *I* should have remained as such had it not been for the demand which the government of Malta made, for the delivery of the persons who had been concerned in the affair of honor, which led to the death of a British officer. It was deemed necessary to send all the persons, implicated in that affair, out of the way; and I went home in the Chesapeake as a passenger.

You have been pleased to allude to my having received the hospitality of your family. The only time I recollect having been at your house, was on my arrival from the Mediteranean in the Congress, fourteen years past. You came on board, and dined with me; and invited the Tunisian ambassador and myself to spend the evening with you at Hampton. I accepted your invitation. Your having now reminded me of it tends very much towards removing the weight of obligation I might otherwise have felt on this score.

You speak of the good conduct of your ancestors. As your own conduct is under discussion, and not theirs, I cannot see how their former good character can at all serve your present purpose. Fortunately for our country, every man stands upon his own merit.

You state that the "Virginia delegation in Congress" had presented a memorial in your favor. I would infer from this, that all, or the greater part of, the Virginia delegation, had interposed in your behalf. This, sir, is not the fact. A few of them, I am informed, did take an interest in your case; but, being informed of the charges existing against you, of which they were before unapprised, they did not press further your claims. From the knowledge *I* have of the high minded gentlemen that compose the Virginia delegation, if they would take the trouble to examine your case, *I* should, for my own part, be entirely satisfied to place the honor of the service upon their decision.

You offer as your excuse for permitting four months to intervene between our June correspondence (with which, from your letter, you appeared to be satisfied and your letter of 23d October, your indisposition. I am authorised in saying, that, for the greater part of the four months, you were out attending to your usual avocations.

Your offering yo[illegible] quite affecting, [illegible] ly intend,) ex[illegible] ridiculous. [illegible] your [illegible] depend upon yourself, and not upon me; and is done with a view to fighting your own character up. *I* have now to inform you, *I* shall pay no further attention to any communication you may make to me, other than a direct call to the field.

Your obedient servant,

STEPHEN DECATUR.

To Com. James Barron,
Hampton, Va.

NO. 11.

Norfolk, Jan. 19th, 1820.

Sir: Your letter of the 29th ult. *I* have received. In it you say that you have now to inform me that you shall pay no further attention to any communication that *I* may make to you other than a direct call to the field; in answer to which *I* have only to reply, that whenever you will consent to meet me on fair and equal grounds, that is, such as two honorable men may consider just and proper, you are at liberty to view this as that call; the whole tenor of your conduct to me justifies this course of proceeding on my part: as for your charges and remarks, *I* regard them not, particularly your sympathy; you know not such a feeling—*I* cannot be suspected of making the attempt to excite it.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

JAMES BARRON.

To Com. Stephen Decatur,
Washington

NO. 12.

Washington, Jan. 24, 1820.

Sir: *I* have received your communication of the 16th, and am at a loss to know what your intention is. *If* you intend it as a challenge, *I* accept it, and refer you to my friend Com. Bainbridge, who is fully authorised by me to make any arrangement he pleases, as regards weapons, mode or distance.

Your obedient servant,

STEPHEN DECATUR.

Com. James Barron.

NO. 13.

Norfolk, Feb. 6, 1820.

Sir: Your letter of the 29th December found me confined to bed, with a violent billious fever, and it was eight days after its arrival before *I* was able to read it; the fever, however, about that time, left me, and my convalescence appeared to promise a moderately quick recovery. *I*, therefore, wrote you my note of the 16th ultimo; in two days after *I* relapsed, and have had a most violent attack, which has reduced me very low, but as soon as *I* am in a situation to write, you shall hear from me to the point. *I* am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES BARRON.

Com. Stephen Decatur,
Washington.

PARIS, (KEN.) MARCH 14.

We feel a good deal of reluctance against publishing any thing respecting the late astonishing elopement. But as many incorrect verbal recitals of the affair, will, no doubt, go abroad—the public seem to demand of us, a correct statement of facts, and as its obedient servant we give the following from one who holds himself responsible for every word therein contained, and whose name will be given on any proper application.

Western Citizen.

PARIS, (KEN.) MARCH 9, 1820.

SINGULAR ELOPEMENT.

On Saturday the 4th inst. Major William Trigg, a citizen of this town, and Cashier of the Branch Bank, left home in the evening, pretending a visit to his register in Fayette county, and representing that his return might be expected the next day. On the Monday following, Bank hours arrived and no cashier appeared to conduct the business of the institution. It had been discovered in the mean time that a young lady of respectability had disappeared, and no conjecture could at first be formed, either of the cause of her departure, or of her motives in leaving the comfort's of her father's house. The Major's being still absent, connected with the absence of the lady, and some other circumstances recollected by individuals, attached to him a suspicion in the minds of some, which they feared to express. At the first intimation of suspicion the Directors, alarmed for the safety of the Bank, repaired thither, and examined and counted its funds, and discovered all safe. This, however, only lulled, but did not eradicate suspicion. Further searches were made, and in a pocket book left in one of the desks of the bank, there was discovered a list of his estate with its value, and a list of his debts and credits, exhibiting a large balance in favor of his estate after his debts should be satisfied. He then proceeds to disclose his contemplated flight, and the cause of it, in feeling expressions, of which the following is a correct copy.

"I keep no book of accounts, and this is nearly the state of my affairs as I can recollect them. *I* shall in a few days leave this part of the world, and when to return God only knows. My conduct *I* know will be condemned, and myself with it. The motives which induced me, no man feels but myself. *I* am sorry for the effect that will be produced upon the Church of which I have been a member; but it injures not the religion of others, and every one has to render an account for himself.

"*I* am also sorry for the families, that will suffer in feeling; but they have not me alone to blame. *I* have for a long time been innocently attached to this female, and never should have thought of any other one, had *I* not been driven to a different course by the men-