

# HORNETS'



# NEST.

VOLUME I.

"QUI ME COMMOVERIT (MELIUS NON TANGERE CLAMO)  
"FLEBIT, ET INSIGNIS TOTA CANTABITUR URBE."

NUMBER 13.

BY BRYANT BRAMBLE, ESQ.

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Murfreesboro', Sept. 3, 1812

## DOMESTICK.

### DOCUMENTS

Accompanying the President's Message.

Letters from Mr. Russell to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Russell to Mr. Monroe.  
London, June 26, 1812.

SIR,

I have the honour to send you, herein, an order of council of the 23d of this month, revoking the orders in council of the 7th of January, 1807, and of the 26th of April, 1809.

To this decree I have added copies of two notes of the same date from Lord Castlereagh, accompanying the communication of it to me, and also a copy of my answer.

With great respect and consideration, I am, sir, your very faithful servant,

JONATHAN RUSSELL.  
The Hon. James Monroe.

Lord Castlereagh to Mr. Russell.  
Foreign Office, June 23, 1812.

SIR,

I am commanded by the Prince Regent to transmit to you, for your information, the enclosed printed copy of an order in council, which his Royal Highness, acting in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, was this day pleased to issue, for the revocation (on the conditions therein specified) of the orders in council of the 7th January, 1807, and of the 26th of April, 1809, so far as may regard American vessels and their cargoes, being American property, from the first of August next.

I have the honour to be, with great consideration, sir, your most obedient humble servant.

(Signed) CASTLEREAGH.  
Jonathan Russell, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

Lord Castlereagh to Mr. Russell.  
Foreign Office, June 23d, 1812.

SIR,

In communicating to your government the orders in council of this date, revoking (under certain conditions therein specified) those of January 7th, and of April 26th, 1809, I am to request that you will at the same time acquaint them, that the Prince Regent's ministers have taken the earliest opportunity

after the resumption of the government, to advise his royal highness to the adoption of a measure grounded upon the document communicated by you to this office on the 20th ultimo; and his royal highness hopes that this proceeding on the part of the British government may accelerate a good understanding on all points of difference between the two states.

I shall be happy to have the honour of seeing you at the foreign office, at two o'clock to-morrow; & beg to apprise you that one of his majesty's vessels will sail for America with the dispatches of the government in the course of the present week.

I have the honour to be, with great consideration,

Sir,  
Your most obed't humble servant,  
(Signed) CASTLEREAGH.  
J. Russell, Esq.

Mr. Russell to Lord Castlereagh.  
18, Bentinck Street, Jan. 26, 1812.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the two notes addressed to me by your lordship, on the 23d of this month, enclosing an order in council, issued that day by his royal highness the Prince Regent, acting in the name and on the behalf of his Britannick majesty, for the revocation (on the conditions therein specified) of the orders in council of the 7th January, 1807, and of the 26th of April, 1809, so far as may regard American vessels and their cargoes, being American property, from the 1st of August next.

In communicating this document to my government, I shall with much satisfaction, accompany it with the hopes which you state to be entertained by his royal highness the Prince Regent, that it may accelerate a good understanding on all points of difference between the two states. I am the more encouraged to believe that these hopes will not be disappointed from the assurance which your lordship was pleased to give me, in the conversation of this morning, that, in the opinion of your lordship, the blockade of the 16th of May, 1806, had been merged in the orders in council, now revoked, and extinguished with them; and that no condition contained in the order of the 23d inst. is to be interpreted to restrain the government of the U. States from the exercise of its right to exclude British armed vessels from the harbours and waters of the U. States whenever there shall be special and sufficient cause for so doing; or, whenever such exclusion shall, from a general policy, be extended to the armed vessels of the enemies of Great Britain: This assurance I am happy to consider as evidence of a conciliatory spirit, which will afford, on every other point of difference an explanation equally frank and satisfactory.

I am, my lord, with great consideration, your lordship's most obedient servant,

(Signed) JONA: RUSSELL.  
The Right Hon. Lord Viscount Castlereagh, &c.

Mr. Russell to Mr. Monroe.  
London, 2d July, 1812.

SIR,

I avail myself of the opportunity

afforded by the British packet, to transmit to you a copy of a note from Lord Castlereagh of the 29th ult. which, I trust, will put at rest the blockade of 1806.

I acknowledge the receipt of this note, as you will observe by the enclosed copy of my reply, without a comment.

I did not think it useful to enter into a discussion at this moment, concerning the legality of that blockade, which, as no new doctrine appears to be assumed, is made to depend on the fact, the application of an adequate force.

In like manner I have forbore to notice his lordship's observations concerning the exclusion, from our ports, of British vessels of war. As such exclusion is required to accord with the obligations of strict neutrality only, the conduct and character of the government of the United States, furnish sufficient security against any question arising on that subject, I have the honour to be, with high consideration, sir, your assured obedient servant,

JONA: RUSSELL.

The Hon. Jas: Monroe, &c. &c. &c.

Lord Castlereagh to Mr. Russell.

Lord Castlereagh has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Russell's communication of the 26th instant.

That no mistake may prevail upon the explanation given in conversation by Lord Castlereagh to Mr. Russell, on the two points referred to in Mr. Russell's letter, Lord Castlereagh begs leave to restate to Mr. Russell, with respect to the blockade of May, 1806, that in point of fact, this particular blockade has been discontinued for a length of time, the general retaliatory blockade of the enemy's ports, established upon the orders in council of Nov. 1807, having rendered the enforcement of it by his majesty's ships of war no longer necessary; and that his majesty's government has no intention of recurring to this or to any other blockades of the enemy's ports, founded upon the ordinary and accustomed principles of maritime law, which were in force previous to the orders in council, without a new notice to neutral powers in the usual form.

With respect to the provision of the order of the 23d inst. which refers to the admission of British ships of war into the harbours and waters of the United States, Lord Castlereagh informs Mr. Russell, that this claim is made in consequence of his majesty's ships being now excluded, whilst those of the enemy are admitted. It is the partial admission of one of the belligerents, of which Great Britain feels herself entitled to complain, as a preference in favour of the enemy incompatible with the obligations of strict neutrality. Were the exclusion general, the British government would consider such a measure on the part of America, as matter of discussion between the two states, but not as an act of partiality of which they had in the first instance a right to complain.

Lord Castlereagh avails himself of this opportunity to renew to Mr. Russell the assurance of his high consideration.

Foreign Office, June 29, 1812.

Mr. Russell to Lord Castlereagh.

Mr. Russell has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note of Lord Castlereagh, dated the 29th ult. containing explanations relative to the two points referred to in Mr. Russell's note of the 26th of that month, and will take the earliest opportunity of communicating it to his government.

Mr. Russell begs leave to avail himself of this occasion, to repeat to Lord Castlereagh the assurances of his high consideration.

18, Bentinck Street, 1st July, 1812.

Mr. Russell to Mr. Monroe.  
London, 1st Sept. 1812.

SIR,

You will perceive by the enclosed copy of notes which have passed between Lord Castlereagh and me, that the moderate and equitable terms proposed for a suspension of hostilities, have been rejected, and that it is my intention to return immediately to the U. States.

My continuance here, after it has been so broadly intimated to me by his lordship, that I am no longer acknowledged in my diplomatic capacity, and after a knowledge that instructions are given to the British admiral to negotiate an arrangement on the other side of the Atlantic, would, in my view of the subject, not only be useless, but improper.

It is probable, however, that the vessel in which I propose to embark will not take her departure before the 15th or 20th of this month.

I have the honour to be,

With great consideration,  
Sir, your assured obedient servant,  
JONATHAN RUSSELL.

To the Hon. James Monroe, &c.

Mr. Russell to Lord Castlereagh.  
London, 4th Aug. 1812.

My Lord,

It is only necessary, I trust, to call the attention of your lordship to a review of the conduct of the government of the United States to prove incontrovertably its unceasing anxiety to maintain the relations of peace and friendship with Great Britain. Its patience in suffering the many wrongs which it has received, and its perseverance in endeavouring, by amicable means, to obtain redress, are known to the world. Despairing, at length, of receiving this redress from the justice of the British government, to which it had so often applied in vain, and feeling that a further forbearance would be a virtual surrender of interests and rights, essential to the prosperity and independence of the nation confided to its protection, it has been compelled to discharge its high duty by an appeal to arms. While, however, it regards this course as the only one which remained for it to pursue, with a hope of preserving any portion of that kind of character which constitutes the vital strength of every nation, yet it is still willing to give another proof of the spirit which has uniformly distinguished its proceedings, by seeking to arrest, on terms consistent with justice and honour, the calamities of war. It has, therefore, authorized me to stipulate with his Britannick majesty's government, an armistice, to commence at or before the expi-

ration of 60 days after the signature of the instrument providing for it, on condition that the orders in council be repealed, and no illegal blockades be substituted to them, and that orders be immediately given to discontinue the impressment of persons from American vessels, and to restore the citizens of the U. S. already impressed; it being moreover well understood that the British government will consent to enter into definitive arrangements, as soon as may be, on these and every other difference, by a treaty to be concluded either at London or Washington, as on an impartial consideration of existing circumstances shall be deemed most expedient.

As an inducement to Great Britain to discontinue the practice of impressment from American vessels, I am authorized to give assurance that a law shall be passed (to be reciprocal) to prohibit the employment of British seamen in the public or commercial service of the U. States.

It is sincerely believed that such an arrangement would prove more efficacious in securing to G. Britain her seamen than the practice of impressment so derogatory to the sovereign attributes of the United States, and so incompatible with the personal rights of her citizens.

Your lordship will not be surprised that I have presented the revocation of the orders in council as a preliminary to the suspension of hostilities, when it is considered that the act of the British government of the 23d of June last, ordaining that revocation, is predicated on conditions, the performance of which is rendered impracticable by the change which is since known to have occurred in the relations between the two countries.

It cannot now be expected that the government of the United States will immediately on due notice of the act, revoke or cause to be revoked, its acts, excluding from the waters and harbours of the United States, all British armed vessels, & interdicting commercial intercourse with Great Britain. Such a procedure would necessarily involve consequences too reasonable and extravagant to be for a moment presumed. The order in council of the 23d of June last, will therefore, according to its own terms, be null and of no effect—and a new act of the British government, adapted to existing circumstances, is obviously required for the effectual repeal of the orders in council of which the United States complain.

The government of the United States considers indemnity for injuries received under the orders in council and other edicts, violating the rights of the American nation, to be incident to their repeal, and it believes that satisfactory provision will be made in the definitive treaty, to be hereafter negotiated, for this purpose.

The conditions now offered to the British government for the termination of the war by an armistice as above stated, are so moderate and just in themselves, and so entirely consistent with its interest and honour, that a confident hope is indulged that it will not hesitate to accept them. In so doing it will abandon no right; it will sacrifice