

# HORNETS'



# NEST.

VOLUME I.

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

NUMBER 33

BY BRYANT BRAMBLE, ESQ.

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## TERMS OF THE NEST.

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Murfreesboro', Sept. 3, 1812

## DOMESTICK.

### From the National Intelligencer. IMPRESSED SEAMEN.

It is required by the enemy that upon the ocean, on the wilderness of waters, created for the equal use of all, we shall acknowledge her right to examine every one of our own men, from head to foot, in looks and in language, like negroes, like the poor oppressed Africans, that they shall be mustered upon the decks of our own vessels, by our own captains! by whom is this inquisitorial power to be exercised? by the most ignorant and arrogant of a jealous and piratical people, by every officer in the service of impudence and power, whoever captain Dacres or any other braggart may think fit to send on board for the purpose of insult and complaint, to ask "who governs the damned Yankees now? And how long do you think the states will hang together?"\* The British Brute who can use this slang with the greatest readiness is selected for the judge of who is and is not "a British subject"—This is called "a maritime right," and submission "in extenso," is insisted upon. May that tongue that would express consent, never speak, to damn the fair possession of our freedom. Yet there are men, calling themselves Americans, Bonds and Moores, and Allens, who advise us to acquiesce! Notwithstanding Great Britain is herself in well known and open practice, not only of employing but impressing foreigners of every other nation, the United States have conceded to prohibit their being received on board our vessels, public or private, from the termination of the present war. If therefore the real undisguised object of Great Britain be, to prevent the adoption of her seamen, in this act she will perceive the olive branch again presented, as to this point on her own terms. Hence must it be expected, if her allegations have been sincere, that she will cease this outrage on our independence, propose a cessation of hostilities by sea and land, and thereby arrest the numbers who will otherwise be daily added to the list of naturalized citizens.

\*This question was actually put to an American, taken out of his own ship, by the captain of a British frigate.

Beyond this act the United States cannot go. Never let it be said, that our pledge to posterity is forfeited, our blood forgotten, which flowed to free our offspring from fetters to satisfy the jealousy, the malice, or the pride of an inveterate and falling foe.—Would not the ravenous vultures of commerce and the sea renew their aggravating examination! repeat the whippings, the lacerating blows inflicted on the national character? Revive with renovated haughtiness the insulting claim to prescribe the mode in which we shall plough the highway of Heaven. Whom our functionaries may know to be native Americans, her domineering officers would assert to be subjectal. Who could be arbiter in such a case? The great English Paley observes "it would be absurd to refer the decision to those whose conduct provoked the question."

To recede from our refusal to submit, or waver in the firm vindication of our rights is to acknowledge this monstrous pretence to be just! Can any American, can any rational reflecting man, admit that a contract entered into according to our own laws, upon our own ground, should be submitted to be judged of and broken, by an ignorant foreigner, whom we never saw or heard of?—That a fellow who can scarcely write his own name, or speak the English language, should be judge of ours! sole umpire—and take out of our vessel to strengthen the force of his own, whoever he pleases? When, in every case, it is his interest to infringe our rights, under pretence of maintaining his own. Submission is followed by plunder, legalized by blockades, refused by violence, and both by promotion and applause.

A manly, becoming, united effort, insures us victory, secures us justice,—peace, free commerce and seamen's rights will immediately succeed.

### GHOST OF MONTGOMERY.

The following is an extract from an Essay in a late London Morning Chronicle, on the subject, of the matters in dispute between this country and Britain; from which it appears, Mr. Pickering and the Massachusetts Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding, that the release of American seamen impressed on board the enemy's vessels of war was deemed an evil of such magnitude as to induce the Admiral to disregard the law, and resist the civil authority of his own government at the cannon's mouth.

[Extract from a British print.]

"Indeed, it appears by some extracts in the Monthly Review of November last, that an American agent at Jamaica some years ago had, by habeas corpus, ascertained the character, and procured the discharge of about fifty American seamen, when the Admiral on the station gave orders, THAT THE WRITS SHOULD NO LONGER BE ATTENDED TO."

It appears from this incident too, that in one of the British islands only, and with the limited proof within reach at that place, fifty impressed seamen were discharged during the short period of a few weeks or months that law was permitted to have the ascendancy. Nat. Int.

### Impressed American Seamen.

Captain Lawrence, of the U. S. sloop of war Hornet, has authorized us to state that there were two impressed American seamen on board the late British sloop of war Peacock, one a native of this state, (New-York) and the other a native of Norfolk. One of them was impressed two years and an half ago, and the other about 18 months since, neither of whom entered, and both were compelled to fight in the engagement with the Hornet.

Before the engagement commenced the above mentioned American seamen left their station, went to the captain of the Peacock, and asked his permission to go below, with the crew of the brig Hunter, of Portland, as they could not fight against their country. This request was peremptorily refused by the late capt. Peake, and the two Americans were forced to their station, and compelled to fight.

[We give the above information upon authority which we are confident will not be questioned.]

Capt. Lawrence further states, that another impressed American was reported to have been on board the Peacock, and that he was killed during the action.

The two first mentioned seamen, have arrived in the Hornet, and were not wounded.

Since we have brought this most important subject before our country, we cannot omit giving publicity to the fact, that two impressed American seamen, were on board the Macedonian, during her engagement with the frigate United States, Commodore Decatur, and were compelled to fight. Neither of them had entered, and one of them was killed. The names of these men were, John Card, a native of the District of Maine, killed; and Peter Johnson, a native of this city, who is now on board the John Adams or Alert. Johnson, after the action was about half over, left his station and refused to do duty any longer, telling capt. Carden, he would prefer death by his order, rather than be compelled to fight against his countrymen.

[We received this information from an authority which effectually silences all doubt. Commodore Decatur is our author.] Bos. Post.

### New-York, March 27.

Lieut. Shubrick, who boarded the Peacock, as mentioned in our paper of last evening, has assisted in capturing three of the five English ships which have been taken by our little navy. He was on board the Constitution until after the capture of the Guerriere and Java, when he went on board the Hornet, and assisted in taking the Peacock. Even. Post.

The British prisoners taken on board the Peacock, were yesterday morning brought over from the Navy Yard and marched to East Gansvoort above the State Prison. The officers are paroled. While the Marshal was taking an account of the prisoners on board the Hornet, two of them slipped down the side and swam for the shore, in hopes of making their escape.—ib.

It will be seen by the arrival of the Spanish schooner Louisa, that

on Saturday last, there were, in lat. 35, and long. 73, eight ships of the line, and several frigates on their way upon our coast. The boarding officer informed, that they were directly from England, and that in two months after their departure, 30,000 troops were to be sent out to this country. [Hem.]

### Boston, March 27.

#### BRITISH REINFORCEMENTS.

The Orpheus British sloop of war, has been spoken off the coast, and gives information of the arrival at Bermuda of the Valiant of 74 guns, from England—that she parted, a few days before she arrived, with a large fleet destined for the American coast.

On the first of Feb. a fleet of 5 sail of the line, supposed to be bound to America, were seen off the Western Islands.

A gentleman from New York, via the Sound, informs, that on Wednesday last he saw a sloop of war off Montaug which chased the packet he was on board into Stonington, and then stood off.—It was reported in Newport, that the Frolic and Wasp sloops of war were both in the sound.

The Lady Johnstone, a British transport, captured and sent into the Delaware, anchored off Port Penn, Feb. 1; reported to have on board 2,000 barrels of gunpowder, 40 battering cannon, and a quantity of Congreve rockets and muskets, was ordered for Philadelphia, but as we are informed, compelled to enter and discharge at Wilmington by the collector of that port. She now lies, not yet unladen, at the Rocks, and an enemy's squadron within a day's sail of her. It is evident that there has been culpable misconduct some where, which ought to be enquired into. Dem. Press.

### Philadelphia, March 29.

A person who left Lewistown, on Friday last, says the British ships just before they sailed, threw two of their rockets at that place, but without effect, one of them falling in the creek, short of the town, the other about half a mile beyond it.

### Charleston, March 27.

ESCAPE OF PRISONERS.—Five American prisoners, all of whom had been officers in different privateers, made their escape from the Prison-Ship in Kingston, (Jam.) harbour on the 5th of January last. A canoe being kept upon a stage along side the ship, with which, after having let themselves out at a port-hole, they rowed off. This was done at night; and the next morning, having got hold of an old musket on their passage out, they captured a copper-bottomed coasting schooner, and gave the crew (negroes) the canoe, with some provisions and water, to go ashore with; and made the best of their way to the Island of Cuba, where they all arrived safe.—One of them is now in this city.

It is said that the British government have ordered, that when any American privateer, which is pursued and taken, shall throw any of her guns over in the pursuit, the officers shall not be admitted on parole or other favours!!! Salem Reg.

Captain Humtings and crew of the sloop Fenwick, of Edenton,

came up from Willoughby's Point on Saturday, having been captured by one of the enemy's schooners near Cape Charles on the 24th inst. Capt. H. relates that he left Alexandria the 11th, and was bound to Edenton, his vessel in ballast. The enemy after taking a quantity of rigging and other articles from the sloop, and 300 dollars in specie from Capt. H. ordered him to proceed with his vessel to the Admiral's ship for adjudication.—Capt. H. however, thought proper to save the Admiral any trouble on his account, by running the sloop aground on the spit at Willoughby's when he and his hands took to the boat and came ashore, leaving the sloop in possession of the Militia on the beach.

The admirals on this station are admirals sir John B. Warren, of the blue; rear-admiral lord A. Beauclerc, of the white; rear-admiral Cockburn, of the blue. An admiral carries his flag at the main, vice-admiral at the fore, and a rear-admiral at the mizen top-gallant mast heads. Nor. Lead.

### OFFERS TO GREAT BRITAIN.

The ensuing enumeration of the several offers which have been made to Great Britain, as equivalent to the abominable outrage of impressment, was made in a speech of Mr. Kent, in Congress. We ask for them a liberal and candid examination; and we adjure every American, who reads them, to lay his hand on his heart, and say, whether the offers have not been such, as ought to shield our Seamen from brutal seizure? If more must be conceded, let it not be done by piecemeal. Let a fit deputation from Boston, be authorized to lay our Declaration of Independence at the foot of the throne; to acknowledge the constitution of the U. States a treasonable compact; and implore amnesty for all who were concerned in the rebellion which Washington headed! Balt. Patriot.

- 1st. To afford no refuge or protection to British seamen.
- 2d. To deliver them up if they took refuge among us.
- 3d. To make laws for restoring them.
- 4th. To aid in searching for, seizing and restoring them.
- 5th. To keep them in our prisons when requested.
- 6th. To prohibit our citizens from carrying them off.
- 7th. To prohibit their employment.
- 8th. To make penal laws for punishing their employers.
- 9th. To make it our duty to restore them.
- 10th. To extend the foregoing provisions not only to deserters, but to all sea-faring people.
- 11th. To exclude from our naval service (as well public as private) all her seamen, including those which may hereafter be naturalized.

### Liberality of American Tars.

It is a fact worthy of note and in the highest degree honourable to our brave Tars, that on the day succeeding the destruction of his Britannicity's brig Peacock, the crew of the Hornet made subscription and supplied every thing (with two shirts, and a blue jacket and trousers each.