

II.

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

WAR WITH AMERICA.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
10 February 1815.

Admiralty-Office, 1st February 1815.

PAPERS presented to the Honourable House of Commons, pursuant to the Commands of His Royal Highness The PRINCE REGENT; in compliance with the humble Address of that honourable House, dated the 1st December last,—That His Royal Highness would be graciously pleased to give directions, that there be laid before the House,—

Copies of all MEMORIALS and REMONSTRANCES, from any of His Majesty's Subjects concerned in the Trade of the United Kingdom, complaining of insufficient Protection to the Trade at Sea, and upon the Coast, against the Ships of War and Privateers of the Enemy, since the commencement of Hostilities with *The United States*, that have been received by His Majesty's Ministers; and of any Answers that may have been made to such Representations: — Viz.

- (1.)—Letter from the Secretaries to the *Royal Exchange* and the *London Assurance* Companies, to the Admiralty; and Answer thereto - - - p. 3.
- (2.)—Letter and Memorial from the Merchants, &c. of *Liverpool*; and Answer thereto - - - - - p. 4.
- (3.)—Petition of the Merchants and others interested in the *Irish* Trade; and Answer thereto - - - - - p. 5.
- (4.)—Letter from the Mayor of *Bristol*, enclosing Memorial of the Merchants, Ship Owners and Traders of the City of *Bristol*; and Answer thereto - p. 6.

— (I.) —

(Copy.)

London, 17th August, 1814.

My Lords,

WE are desired, by the Governors and Directors of the *Royal Exchange Assurance*, and of the *London Assurance* Corporations, to represent to Your Lordships, that numerous captures of very valuable Ships have been made by American Privateers, in or on their approaching the English or Irish Channels: And as accounts have this day been received that the "Peacock" American Sloop of War is committing depredations off St. Kilda, and the American Privateer "Prince of Neufchatel," in sight of Lundy; the Corporations cannot refrain from stating these facts to your Lordships, and most earnestly beg leave to solicit that such immediate additional protection may be given in those quarters, as may effectually prevent a repetition of these ruinous and unlooked-for losses to the Trade of this Country.

We have the honour to be, &c.

Samuel Fenning, Junr.

Secy Royal Exchange Assurance.

John Laurence,

Secy London Assurance.

To the Right Hon^{ble}
The Lords Commissioners
of the Admiralty

(Copy.)

SIR,

Admiralty-Office, 19 August 1814.

HAVING laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the Letter of the 17th instant, signed by you and the Secretary to the *London Assurance Corporation*, on the subject of the depredations committed by the American Privateers therein mentioned; I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, that there was a force adequate to the purpose of protecting the Trade, both in St. George's Channel and the Northern Sea, at the time referred to.

I am, &c.

(Signed) *J. W. Croker.*

Mr. Samuel Fenning, Junr,
Secretary to the Royal Exchange
Assurance Corporation.

(Copy.)

— (2.) —

(Copy.)

SIR,

Liverpool, 1 September 1814.

ON behalf of the Merchants, Ship Owners and Underwriters, who have signed the enclosed Memorial, I beg leave to transmit the same to you, for the purpose of being presented to their Lordships; and I am desirous to state, that the signatures of the Merchants, &c. would have been much more numerous, had it not been considered desirable to forward the present Memorial by this day's post.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) *Tho' Rhodie.*

John W. Croker, Esquire.

To the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

The MEMORIAL of the Merchants, Ship Owners, Underwriters and others, interested in the Shipping and Commerce of the Port of *Liverpool*;

Sheweth,

THAT Your Memorialists being deeply interested in the prosperity of British Commerce, cannot contemplate, without the most serious alarm, the late numerous Captures made by American Cruizers, in St. George's Channel, and on the Western and Northern Coasts of Ireland and Scotland; whereby a very severe loss has been sustained to the Country, and particularly to the port of Liverpool:

Your Memorialists are fully impressed with a belief, that these depredations will increase very materially as the season advances, and during the winter months, which will add to the facility the Enemy have experienced, in effecting their captures, and in returning unmolested to ports in their own country:

Your Memorialists have seen with regret, that the American vessels of war, private as well as national, have lately adopted a novel and extraordinary practice (particularly as it regards the former) of burning and destroying such prizes, as they have no reasonable expectation of getting into port; a system, as Your Memorialists have been informed, sanctioned and promoted by pecuniary rewards from the American Government: And Your Memorialists are confirmed in their belief of the truth of this information, by the great anxiety always shown by the Commanders of the Enemy's cruizers, to get possession of, and to preserve the registers and other papers of such vessels as they destroy:

Your Memorialists therefore most humbly and earnestly pray, That Your Lordships will be pleased to take into your most serious consideration, the propriety of adopting such measures as you may deem effectual for the further Protection of the Trade in St. George's Channel, and on the Western and Northern Coasts of the United Kingdom, and to counteract and prevent, as far as possible the ruinous effects of this new system of warfare, and the recurrence of such numerous and alarming depredations upon the commerce of the Country.

Your Memorialists beg leave to make known to Your Lordships, their entire disapprobation of the measure adopted, at a public Meeting held in this Town on the 30th instant, that of petitioning His Royal Highness The Prince Regent on the subject of this Memorial; as, without any necessity existing for such means being resorted to, Your Memorialists are confident, that Your Lordships will grant the necessary and increased protection required for the commerce and shipping of the Country.

And Your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c. &c.

Sam^l Sandbach, John Tobin, P. P. Tinney, George Littledale, Robert Harvey, W^m Potter, John Barber, Thomas Lance, Charles Shand, Jacob Fletcher, Hervey Cumming, Tho^s Tobin, William Harner, W^m Coupland, John Livingston, John Dennison, John Gladstone, Ed. Falkner, John Bourne, Robert Gladstone, Rich^d Rawson, James Bourne, R. Maxwell, W^m M'Caurfe, John Montgomery, Tho^s Rodie, Peter Bourne, W^m Mawdsley, W^m Milburn, R^d Copland, W^m Wilson,
Ja^s

THE WAR WITH AMERICA.

5

Ja^s Bunnell, J. Lee, Tho^s F. Dyson, C. Logan, Isaac Littledale, W^m Ewart, W^m Lyne, Tho^s Moore, Thomas Headlam, Joseph Greavesly, Blandell, Hollinshead & Havert, W^m Henry, W^m Johnson, Will. Swan, Ralph Hebson, Luke Robinson & Braddell, Will. Sutton, jun. W. G. Forsyth, Geo. Grant, W^m Barber, James Yerstom, John Conway, And^w Davidson, Will. Jenner, B. Mawdsley, Geo. Randies.

(Copy.)

SIR,

Admiralty-Office, 3d September 1814

I HAVE received and communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the Memorial of the Merchants, Ship Owners, and others, of *Liverpool*, requesting further protection for the Trade of St. George's Channel, and the Western and Northern Coasts of the United Kingdom: And in reply, I am commanded to convey to you, for the information of the Memorialists, that the protection of the Trade in those quarters had already occupied their Lordships particular attention, and though (as the Memorialists will feel) it would be highly inconvenient and prejudicial to the public interests, to enter into any detail of the amount or disposition of the force now or hereafter to be employed in this service, my Lords see no inconvenience in stating, that a very ample force has been under the orders of the Admirals commanding the Western Stations for this purpose, and that, during the time when the Enemy's depredations are stated to have taken place, not less than three frigates and fourteen sloops were actually at sea, for the immediate protection of St. George's Channel and the Western and Northern parts of the United Kingdom.

My Lords further command me to express their hope, that the ready and effectual protection of convoys which has been on all occasions given to the Western Trade, will convince the Memorialists of their Lordships readiness to attend to their interests, and of their desire to employ the public force in the manner the most conducive (in their judgment, and according to their intelligence) to the public advantage.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

Thomas Rodie, Esq.
Liverpool.

(Signed) J. W. Croker.

— (3.) —

To the Right honourable Lord MELVILLE and the Lords Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland:

The humble Petition of the undersigned Merchants and others
interested in the *Irish* Trade;—

Sheweth,

THAT Your Petitioners beg leave to solicit the attention of Your Lordships to the extensive and grievous depredations committed by American Privateers in the Bristol and St. George's Channel, by which the trade with Ireland is seriously injured; the frequent accounts of these destructive vessels being off Waterford, &c. and once even in Dublin Bay, has doubtless come to the knowledge of your Lordships; premiums of insurance from London to Ireland, which were effected in July and the beginning of August at twenty shillings per cent. have since been so high as four and five guineas per cent. from the alarming accounts of American Privateers so daringly cruising in every part of the Irish Channel; and further Your Petitioners beg to state, that they not only suffer from increase of premiums but from detention. Released from French Privateers, the Traders, in moderate weather, could always keep the Sea, having the full breadth of the Channel to beat their passage in, and might therefrom calculate on effecting it in a given time; whereas vessels now with cargoes of teas, sugar, &c. to the value of thirty

to forty thousand pounds, are obliged to put into the ports about the Landsend for convoy to take them up the Irish Channel.

The purport of the present Petition is therefore to pray Your Lordships will be pleased to order such protection as shall appear to Your Lordships sufficient, which will satisfy the Underwriters to reduce the premium, and do away the necessity of the ships proceeding from port to port, as they can get a favourable breeze, to run in quickly out of the way of the American Privateers.

And Your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Tho^s Lewis & Sons; Jn^o Darley, Gibb & Co.; Fletcher, Shaw & Co.; Adair, Jackson, Peters, Richardson, Heyman & Co.; Harvey, Thornton & Co.; Leslie & Tho^s Alexander; Sage, Rawdon & Jennings; Mich^l W^m Irvy; Knatchbull, Rule, Cunningham & Co.; Armstrong, Friend & Co.; Thompson & Norman; Morgan & Lockwood; John & Rob^t Christie & Co.; p. Pro *for* John Bolland, W^m Robinson; p. Pro *of* Bush & Were, Ja^s Nicholson; Tho^s Kenlewell; Jn^o K. Hainson; M. & J. Mac Donnell & J. Bushell; Paris, M^c Canslaud & Co.; Cha^s & Ja^s Haynes; Bennett & Co.; Hawksley & Gowan; Rob^t Kingston; W. T. Robarts & Co.; D. & G. Barclay & Saundersons; O'Reilly, Young & Co.; Puget, Bainbridge & Co.; Richard O. W^m Crawshay & Co.; Cha^s & Sam^l Enderby; B. Fayle; Jn^o Nicholson; p^r Pro *for* W^m & E^d Stewart, Jn^o Stewart; Dicks & Clement; Ja^s Cooper & Nephew; Kirt, Hearons & Co.; Geo. Evans & Son; H. S. J. Johnston & Co.; Bell, Higginson & Co.; Rob^t Barnewell & Sons; Jn^o Kirman & Sons; Grog. Lindsay; Thorley, Johnston & Co.; John Nesbitt; W^m Canningham; W. & S. M^c Quoid & Co.; Sam. & Jn^o Ward & Co.; D^d Taylor & Sons; Bogle, French, Son & Barton; Jn^o & Bart^r Jeffery; J. R. Nixon; Wood, Wigan & Wood; Tho^s Davy & J. Roberts; Brandrums, Templeman & Co.; John Green, Son & Co.; Ja^s Greenwood & Co.

N. B.—The following Memorandum was attached to the MEMORIAL, on a *separate* piece of paper.

(Copy.)

“IT is not the intention of the Memorialists to assume to themselves any right to represent what should be the general protection afforded to the various ships passing through the particular parts in which the danger has occurred, but to refer this to their Lordships consideration; and as to themselves, particularly to ask for frequent regular convoys to and from the Ports of Belfast and Newry, from Dublin, from Waterford, Cork and Limerick, which convoys should proceed to and from the Downs, if the convenience of the public service will admit it; but if otherwise, that their destination should be as far as Plymouth. The convoys from Cork, Waterford and Limerick, they submit may be regulated by the Admiral on the Cork Station. They submit also that some certain protection should be given to the Trade between Ireland and North Britain, and between Ireland and the Ports of Liverpool and Lancaster.”

(Copy.)

Admiralty-Office, 15th September 1814.

GENTLEMEN,

I RECEIVED and laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the Memorial requesting such sufficient protection for the trade between Great Britain and *Ireland* as shall satisfy the Underwriters, and induce them to lower the premium of insurance: And I am commanded by their Lordships to state, that if by, sufficient protection, were meant, as might be supposed from the words of the Memorial, protection to be afforded by cruizers to merchant ships running from port to port without convoy, it would be deceiving the trade, to lead it to believe that their Lordships think that any amount of cruising force could afford the prospect of effectual security; but having understood, at an interview which their Lordships had requested with a deputation of the Memorialists, in order to ascertain

ascertain precisely their object, that they concurred in their Lordships' opinion of the precariousness of the protection to be afforded by cruizers alone, and were desirous of extending convoy system to the trade between Great Britain and Ireland, I am commanded to say, that their Lordships are perfectly ready, in addition to the cruising force employed, to provide convoys to such places, and at such times, as may, on a joint consideration of the subject, appear to them, and to the gentlemen interested in the trade, most convenient and useful; and I am directed further to observe, that their Lordships have been always willing to afford the protection of a convoy to any portion of the trade which has been desirous of availing itself of it; but the merchants must recollect, that the provisions of the Convoy Act, not obliging vessels to take convoy from one port to another of the United Kingdom, their Lordships have no power of enforcing its provisions; and that the proposed system cannot be expected to have full effect, unless the Merchants and Ship Owners will themselves direct the masters of vessels to take and keep company with the appointed convoys.

I have to add, that it will be found convenient, if the gentlemen interested in the trade will be so good as to elect a Chairman, through whom their communications may be made with this department, in the same way, that those of other trading bodies now are.

I am, Gentlemen,

&c. &c.

(Signed) J. W. Croker.

To Messrs. A. & W. Ogilvy & Jones,
Ingram Court, Fenchurch-street.

— (1.) —

(Copy.)

My LORDS,

Council-House, Bristol, 15th Sept. 1814.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to Your Lordships the enclosed Memorial from the Merchants, Ship Owners and Traders of this Port, upon the subject of the unprotected state of their Coasting and *Irish* Trade against American cruizers and privateers; which Memorial was unanimously adopted by a General Meeting, held in the Guildhall of this City, on the 13th instant.

I take the liberty of adding to the particular complaint of the Memorial, that I understand, both from private and public information, that many of the privateers which bear the American flag, have been fitted or refitted out of the ports of France, a practice which cannot fail to prove highly prejudicial to the general commerce of the United Kingdom; but in the extent to which it appears to be carried, is contrary to the acknowledged Law of Nations between neutral States and Belligerents, and calls for the most prompt and energetic remonstrance from His Majesty's Government to that of France.

With full confidence that the subject of the Memorial will have the fullest consideration and attention from Your Lordships,

I remain, my Lords,

with the greatest respect, &c. &c.

Jas Fowler,

Mayor of Bristol.

To the Right hon^{ble}
the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty:

The MEMORIAL of the Merchants, Ship Owners, and Traders, of the
City of *Bristol*, in Guildhall assembled;

Sheweth,

THAT the depredations committed by American Cruizers, in capturing, plundering and destroying vessels engaged in the Trade of this Port, have of late increased to a most alarming extent:

That the usual shipments to and from this Port, have been in a considerable degree suspended; the parties interested either anticipating the probable loss of

their Goods if attempted to be forwarded, or being unwilling to burthen themselves with the heavy additional charge of the present rate of insurance :

That this charge of insurance has gradually risen to so high a rate as to exceed twofold the amount at which it was usually effected even during the Continental War, when the British Navy, engaged in the blockade of an immense line of coast, could not, as at present, direct its operations solely against the Naval force of the American enemy :

That the captures recently made in and near the Saint George's Channel, and at no considerable distance from this Port, must evince the propriety, and indeed the necessity of adding a large number of cruizers to those hitherto employed in the Irish Channel, for the protection of the Trade of this Port :

That however sufficient the system of convoy may be for long voyages to remote parts of the world, it would operate not as a benefit, but as a ruinous burthen and clog upon the most extensive and advantageous parts of the Commerce of this City, namely the Coasting Trade, and that, with the Ports of Ireland, a species of Commerce which depends entirely upon the facility and quickness of communication between both Countries :

That the Merchants, Ship Owners, and other Traders of Bristol, observing that due respect to the constituted Authorities which has ever characterized them, determine to make their appeal through the accustomed and official channel, and rely with the most implicit confidence, that Your Lordships will give immediate attention and effect to their Memorial; and they beg leave to suggest, that they adopt this mode of address, in order to impress the more forcibly upon Your Lordships consideration, that the complaint they now lay before You, is of the most serious importance to their interests, and requires, on the part of Your Lordships, an exertion commensurate with the great weight, which it appears to Your Lordships Memorialists to possess.

Given at the Guildhall of the City of Bristol, this 13th day of September 1814, at a General Meeting.

(Signed) *Jas Fowler,*
Mayor of Bristol, Chairman.

(Copy.)

SIR,

Admiralty Office, 16th Sept. 1814.

I HAVE received and laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, your Letter of yesterday's date, with the Memorial from the Merchants and Ship Owners of *Bristol* which accompanied it: And I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, that the several points adverted to in the Memorial have not failed to engage their serious attention; but that, however desirous they may be of affording adequate protection to the trade of the Memorialists, and although a considerable force has been and is now employed on the Stations to which the Memorialists particularly advert, their Lordships not only do not concur in the proposition that a number of Cruizers can afford complete protection against the occasional attempts of Privateers; but they are satisfied, on the contrary, from the experience of all former periods of war, and particularly in the instance of the coasting trade in the English Channel, that nothing but a system of Convoy will afford the desired protection.

Their Lordships have commanded me further to state, that, though they have no power by law to compel the adoption of Convoys for the trade between one port and another of the United Kingdom, they are nevertheless desirous of making such arrangements for that purpose as, upon communication with the Merchants of Bristol, or of any other port, may be deemed proper and necessary.

Their Lordships take this opportunity of stating to you, for the information of the Memorialists, that from the accounts which their Lordships have received, of the description of vessels which have formed the largest proportion of the recent captures in the *Irish* and *Bristol* Channels, it appears that, if their Masters had availed themselves of the Convoys appointed for their protection from Foreign Ports, or had not, in other instances, deserted from the Convoys under whose protection they had sailed, before the final conclusion of the voyage, many of the captures would not have been made. It is their Lordships determination, as far as they may be enabled, to bring to punishment the parties who

may

THE WAR WITH AMERICA.

9

may have been guilty of such illegal acts, and which are attended with such injurious consequences to the trade of the Country.

To the observation made in the Memorial, as to the course of communication which the Merchants of Bristol have adopted, my Lords command me to reply, that they are always happy to pay, the representations of so respectable a body as the Merchants of Bristol, every attention in their power.

With regard to the observations in your Letter, relative to the fitting out of Privateers in the French Ports, I am to state, that this matter has been long since the subject of a communication, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the French Government; which has been answered by that Government on satisfactory principles.

James Fowler, Esq.
Mayor of Bristol.

I am, &c. &c.
(Signed) *J. W. Croker.*