

It is unnecessary Sir, to examine scrupulously into the propriety of our acknowledging your authority, previous to a recognition of it by the President of the United States, because there is nothing contained in your representation (allowing it to be an official one) that would warrant our interposition -

We are it is true instructed by the Federal Executive to employ such means as are in our power, to prevent all violations of the Neutrality professed by America, and if we had any evidence that the case you have stated, was attended with an infringement of that neutrality or of the Laws of Nations, we should without hesitation take measures for the detention as well of the capturing vessel as of her Prize - But your letter contains not the slightest allegation against the validity of the French Commission nor a hint that the capture was made within the limits of our Jurisdiction - The reasons you have for supposing that the British Minister will apply to the Executive of the United States on the subject of this vessel may be very good ones, but as they are

(not)