

his express desire that we consider them as if ad-
-dressed to us.

Presuming that the British Ministers' representations alluded to by Mr. Jefferson, must be founded on some alleged illegality in the taking of the prizes in question, and of course are intended to procure full restitution of them, with their cargoes, we allow the justice of your inference that any act of proprietorship in the captors is improper and disrespectful to the President, during the suspension in which he has placed their rights - whether he has given any positive directions or Mr. Jefferson leaves unexplained, but if he has, they seem merely to forbid the departure of the vessels and their prizes, and do not reach the point of preventing embezzlements or even the sale of the property -

A few words we presume will satisfy you Sir that we cannot with propriety remedy the omission. The regulation of whatever relates to peace and war to treaties, and to maritime affairs is vested exclusively in the General Government, whose agents we must of course be in any thing we undertake that comes under these heads. The cases in which our interference is required have been pointed out by the Executive of the United States. But it is impossible

(for)