

my interference. On my arrival, I wrote to his Consul, stating the information I had received, acquainting him that the preparations said to be making were contrary to the rules prescribed by the Federal Executive, and requiring his cooperation in the measures my duty would require me to take, for preventing the equipments in question. In his answer he acknowledged that He had ordered carriages to be made for the dismounted Guns on board of the French merchant vessels and that he made the necessary advances of money to be reimbursed in France. He said that it was in confidence of the sufficiency of Mr. Hollingsworth's permission, that He proceeded in the work after that Gentleman had first questioned him on the subject. He declared that the Guns for which carriages were preparing were brought by the Ships to America and lamented that having no suspicion that his object was repugnant to the Regulations of the Country, he had been the occasion of the commercial Captains in trying their old carriages, and of thus reducing their vessels to a more defenceless state than they were in at their arrival. He however professed an entire submission to the President's orders, and promised to abandon the project he had formed of assisting the merchant ships. I wrote likewise to the collector, who at my request set on foot an examination into the condition of the French vessels, which produced no discovery of illegal armaments except with regard to the Ship *L'Indien*, which appeared to have greatly increased her number of Guns since her arrival. On the collector's acquainting the Consul with this circumstance, his reply was that for the convenience of bringing a number of passengers this Ship brought the Guns in her hold; and that she was precisely in the predicament of the Schooner *Industry*, whose prizes had been declared legal - except that the former like all the rest of the merchantmen, was armed only for defence, and the other for attack, which difference in their objects would certainly not subject the Ship to a more rigorous treatment than the Privateer had received. The Letter however contained a promise to assemble all the commercial Captains at his House to insist on the most positive and explicit declarations

(respecting)