

The four men claimed as deserters were then transferred to the British vessel. Upon investigation it was ascertained that three of them were American citizens who had been impressed by the British and had afterward escaped from their service. This outrage upon a national vessel was followed by a proclamation by the President, Mr. Jefferson, forbidding British ships of war to enter the harbors of the United States, until satisfaction for the attack on the Chesapeake should be made by the British government, and security given against future aggression. At this time the war cloud was gathering fast. At the close of Mr. Jefferson's administration, war with England seemed inevitable. The hostile measures of the two belligerent powers, England and France, had worked serious injuries to American commerce, and the repeated insults perpetrated by England upon American citizens and the National flag, had greatly exasperated the American people. On the succession of Mr. Madison to the Presidency, renewed efforts were made for an amicable adjustment of existing difficulties, but without success. Early in April, 1812, congress passed an act laying an embargo for ninety days on all vessels within the United States. On the 4th of June, following, a bill declaring war against Great Britain passed the House of Representatives, and on the 17th the Senate, and on the 19th the President issued a proclamation of war. The people of the United States, generally, were ripe and anxious for the conflict, and there was little difficulty in obtaining men for the army and navy at \$8 a month. There seemed to be less pocket patriotism then than has manifested itself in later years. All wars are more or less a public