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U.S. President, 1812.

Message from the President ... Transmitting Certain Documents ... On ... Our Affairs with Great Britain.
June 18th, 1812.

Washington, Weightman, 1812. 12 pp.

DLC copy.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

CERTAIN DOCUMENTS,

BEING

A CONTINUATION OF THOSE HERETOFORE COMMUNICATED TO CONGRESS,

ON THE

SUBJECT OF OUR AFFAIRS

WITH

GREAT BRITAIN.

JUNE 18th, 1812.

Printed by order of the Senate United States.

WASHINGTON CITY:

PRINTED BY ROGER C. WEIGHTMAN.

1812.

IN SENATE
OF
THE UNITED STATES.

June 18th, 1812.

On motion, by Mr. Anderson,
Ordered, That twelve hundred copies be printed for the use of the Senate:

MESSAGE.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the
United States.*

I COMMUNICATE to Congress certain documents, being a continuation of those heretofore laid before them, on the subject of our affairs with Great Britain.

Without going back beyond the renewal in 1803, of the war in which Great Britain is engaged, and omitting unrepaired wrongs of inferior magnitude, the conduct of her government presents a series of acts, hostile to the United States as an independent and neutral nation.

British cruizers have been in the continued practice of violating the American flag on the great high way of nations, and of seizing and carrying off persons sailing under it; not in the exercise of a belligerent right, founded on the law of nations against an enemy, but of a municipal prerogative over British subjects. British jurisdiction is thus extended to neutral vessels, in a situation where no laws can operate but the law of nations, and the laws of the country to which the vessels belong; and a self redress is assumed, which, if British subjects were wrongfully detained and alone concerned, is that substitution of force, for a resort to the responsible sovereign, which falls within the definition of war. Could the seizure of British subjects, in such cases, be regarded as within the exercise of a belligerent right, the acknowledged laws of war, which forbid an article of captured property to be adjudged, without a regular investiga-

