

Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and Henry Knox, July 12, 1793, Minutes Given to President on Armed Vessels , from The Works of Thomas Jefferson in Twelve Volumes. Federal Edition. Collected and Edited by Paul Leicester Ford.

CABINET OPINION ON PRIVATEERS AND PRIZES J. MSS.

July 12, 1793.

At a meeting of the heads of the departments at the President's on Summons from him, & on consideration of various representations from the Min. Plen. of France & Gr. Britain on the subject of vessels arming & arriving in our ports, & of prizes; it is their opinion that letters be written to the said Ministers informing them that the Executive of the U S. desirous of having done what shall be strictly conformable to the treaties of the U S., & the laws, respecting the sd cases has determined to refer the questions arising therein to persons learned in the laws; that as this reference will occasion some delay, it is expected that in the meantime the *Little Sarah*, or *Little Democrat*, the ship *Jane*, & the ship *William* in the Delaware, the *Citoyen Genet* & her prizes the brigs *Lovely lass* & *Prince William Henry*, & the brig *Fanny* in the Chesapeake do not depart till the further order of the President.

That letters be addressed to the judges of the Supreme court of the U. S. requesting their attendance at this place on Thursday the 18th inst. to give their advice on certain matters of public concern which will be referred to them by the President.

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That the Governor be desired to have the ship *Jane* attended to with vigilance, & if she be found augmenting her force & about to depart, that he cause her to be stopped.