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DNB. ARCH. 46

~~Several~~ made sundry charges against the Inhabitants of this place by information you say of an officer of marines by the name of John Howell.

The first of which charges is, That a number of Inhabitants assembled & by waifs & signals, prevented a certain sloop from falling into the hands of the armed Vessels lying in this port as a prize. also That said Inhabitants have discovered in various instances ^{a disposition} to aid & assist his Majesty's Enemies, and to molest & disturb such of his Majesty's servants as have put into this place. and for such perfidious conduct we have forfeited all the Indulgencies heretofore granted us &c.

In answer to the first charge, We say That the sloop referred to, came over this Bar, & anchored within a quarter of a mile from the shore & there lay twelve hours, which we apprehend would not have been the case, if they had seen any Waifs; But on the Town being informed by the Commanders of the armed Vessels that

there had been waifs the principal Inhabitants endeavored to find who the persons were that were guilty. After much enquiry, it was found That a number of Lads at the Sea-side were the persons, and upon examination we could not discover that they were sent for that purpose by any person. And the Town highly disapproved of any such conduct; and we dare say that nothing of the same kind will take place in future. And we must likewise add That the pilot then on board declares that he, nor no other person on board said sloop (that he knows of) discovered any such Waifs, and that they did not omit coming into the harbor on that account, but were informed by a small sloop that British-Colours were displayed in the Harbor, & that the Fishing-Vessels that went in were taken possession of by armed Vessels.

In answer to the second charge of aiding the King's Enemies, we say That the Town of Sherborn, on the return of their Committee from New-York