DOCUMENTS,

WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE

MESSAGE of the PRESIDENT

OF THE

UNITED STATES.

LETTER FROM Mr. ERSKINE,
His Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary,

TO THE HUSBANDS MAJESTY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Washington, July 31, 1809.

SIR—I have the honor to address to you a copy of an order which was issued by His Majesty in Council on the 26th of May last, in consequence of the Orders, it is to be feared, expect that I have to intimate you, that it has not been thought fitting to confirm the Arrangement concluded by Mr. Pinkney and Mr. Secretary Pole with the Ministers of our respective Governments.

Notwithstanding, however, the reasons, which induced me to formally disapprove the engagements, which the Ministers were authorised (conceived I had reason to think) to contract, I should be sorry, if, in a point of my instructions, upon the strict letter, indeed, which the wisdom of my Sovereign, whatever I may have to regret, in the result, I should be sorry, I repeat, if I should be thought to hesitate, in taking upon me the responsibility of a departure from the Instructions of the United States.

I have the satisfaction, however, to say, your statement of the objects of the order in Council, which protects the commerce and navigation of the United States from the vexations and inconvenience which might have at them to be exercised, from a construction on the provisional agreement before mentioned, I cannot but, thinkfully to hope, that no further bad consequences may result from an accident, which I have, I trust, fairly, and with out wilfulness, explained.

Your Government will have felt, I am sure, the sincere and cordial understanding between the two governments.

This sentiment of the highest respect and confidence, I have, in the recess, from this, will stand me advantageously opportunity of the approaching of the prince, which