

to declare the "distinctly pronounced intention of his imperial majesty of favoring the commercial relations between France and the United States, in all the objects of traffic, which shall evidently proceed from their agriculture or manufactures." "If France, by her own acts, has blockaded up her ports against the introduction of the products of the United States, what motive has this government, in a discussion with a third power, to insist on the privilege of going to France? Whence the inducement to urge the annulment of a blockade of France, when, if annulled, no American cargoes could obtain a market in any of her ports? In such a state of things, a blockade of the coast of France would be, to the United States, as unimportant, as would be a blockade of the coast of the Caspian sea."

And so far has the French emperor been from relaxing, in whole or in part, these odious regulations as to us, in consequence of our submitting to give up our English trade, that they have been made a subject of special instructions to the minister who has been sent to the court of France. Mr. Monroe, in his letter of instructions to Mr. Barlow, of July 26, 1811, says, "Your early and particular attention will be drawn to the great subject of the commercial relation, which is to subsist, in future, between the United States and France. The President expects that the commerce of the United States will be placed, in the ports of France, on such a footing as to afford it a fair market; and to the industry and enterprise of their citizens, a reasonable encouragement. An arrangement to this effect was looked for immediately after the revocation of the decrees, but it appears from the documents in this department, that that was not the case; on the contrary that our commerce has been subjected to the greatest discouragement, or rather to the most oppressive restraints; that the vessels, which carried coffee, sugar, &c. though sailing directly from the United States to a French port, were held in a state of sequestration, on the principle that the trade was prohibited, and that the importation of these articles was not only unlawful, but criminal; that even the vessels, which carried the unquestionable productions of the United States, were exposed to great and expensive delays, to tedious investigations in unusual forms, and to exorbitant duties. In short, that the ordinary usages of commerce between friendly nations were abandoned."

Again Mr. Monroe, in the same letter, says, "If the ports of France and her allies are not opened to the commerce of the United States, on a liberal scale and on fair conditions, of what avail to them, it may be asked, will be the revocation of the British orders in council? In contending for a revocation of these orders, so far as it was an object of interest, the United States had in view a trade to the continent. It was a fair legitimate object, and worth contending for, while France encouraged it. But if she shuts her ports on our commerce, or burdens it with heavy duties, that motive is at an end." He again says, "you will see the injustice, and endeavour to prevent the necessity, of bringing, in return for American cargoes sold in France, an equal amount in the produce or manufactures of that country. No such obligation is imposed on French merchants trading to the United States. They enjoy the liberty of selling their cargoes for cash, and taking