

might remain of this right. It hath also, I flatter myself, appeared with how little reason other neutral powers, under colour of any article in their treaties of commerce, have claimed the enjoyment of such a right. Upon the whole, therefore, I will now beg permission to conclude, that the naval power of England hath been conducted, during the present war, with no less justice than spirit,—that the faith of our sovereign is as spotless as his courage,—and that the honour of our country is unblemished.

The basis of just complaint being thus removed, those idle clamours which have been founded upon it by no means merit our attention; to charge England with ambition must appear so absurd to all who understand the nature of her government, that, at the bar of reason, it ought to be treated rather as calumny than accusation; possessed of every blessing which civil government can produce, she is open to no temptation with which ambition might seduce her; pursuits of that kind might possibly operate to the destruction of her constitution, and her system of happiness might be subverted by the augmentation of her power; it must always be the interest of England to protect the just rights of commerce, and to support those principles which promote the labours of mankind, since she herself can only be great from the virtuous industry of her people. To obtain the largest extent for the exertion of her industry, and for the operation of her commercial capital, is the point to which all her policy should tend; and if ever, forsaking these maxims, she should seek to enlarge her power by