

proach her with the poverty we alone have occasioned. We accuse her of the consequences which flow from our own acts. All those who know the Norwegians must be aware, that few other people possess, in an equal degree, a taste for foreign comforts and conveniences, and that few nations upon earth consumed a larger quantity, in proportion to the amount of population, as long as they were permitted to pay for them\*.

There is another consideration to which it may be proper to advert; I mean the effect that may be produced on the political interests of Great Britain, by any reduction of the defensive means which Scandinavia possesses.

Russia, already the greatest military power upon earth, wishes also to attain maritime dominion; she commands the *materiel* of an extensive navy; but her small extent of coast, and the habits of her servile population, yield her but few real sailors; and she naturally casts an eager eye upon two countries, whose possession would afford thirty thousand seamen, numbers of whom have conquered and bled under the British flag, and who are universally allowed, by experienced judges, to cede to none but our own in knowledge and hardihood, among all those which Europe can furnish. Upon the conquest of Sweden and Norway the possessors

\* The annual importations into Norway, during the last three or four years, have been officially valued at about ten millions of specie dollars, or, calculating at an average exchange, 1,600,000/.