

view of the case, the greater the number of stipulations, the more multiplied was the evidence, that in the law, as it stood, neutral ships had not the right to protect enemy's property.

Still with so many treaties favoring the measure; and *notamment* that with France as late as the year 1787; it would have been rather unneighbourly, and *contra verecundiam*, to have refused it to the United States. But here lay the difficulty. At the time of those compacts, both the parties were at peace, or in contemplation of it; but at the time of Lord Grenville's treaty with Mr. Jay, America was at peace, but England at war. Now it will be seen at once that the reciprocity, which, when both parties were at peace or both at war, gave an equal chance of benefit, depending on the contingency of which party should be first at peace while the other was at war, would be all on one side, to use an expression of Mr. Pitt, where America could immediately enter on the freighting of enemy's goods. The American government was too candid to turn a deaf ear to such an argument as this; and it will be found in the 12th Article of the treaty before cited, that the parties agreed to resume the discussion, after a peace should have placed them on an equal footing.

But, Sir, is the inference to be drawn from this, that America supports France in her pretensions? On the contrary I do say that the more desirous she is of establishing the rule; the more numerous the instances in which the practice has been heretofore admitted; and the greater the number of states that maintain the doctrine as a principle; the less right have we to say that America is hostile to our pretensions, and the more reason to aver the contrary.

Now let us probe the depth of our gratitude to America for siding with us against all the world in this pretension, and against France at least in the others that we consider of such vital importance; or to get rid of the irony at once, let us review a few of the miserable state tricks, by which the public opinion has been forced into a direction so adverse to this palpable evidence. I think, Sir, you will agree with me that this self-denial of the American government is not to be construed into resistance to our pretensions; and that the expression of a desire, thus curbed, by the editor of a newspaper even favorite of the government, is not to