

trade with her in these articles was not inconsiderable. But since she has been deprived of her foreign possessions, and since the establishment of her municipal regulations as to licences, this trade has been in a great degree annihilated. With respect to colonial produce none can be imported into France except from *particular ports* of the United States, and under *special imperial licences*. For these licences our merchants must pay what the agents of the French government think proper to demand. As to articles of our domestic produce, they are burthened with such exorbitant duties, and are subjected to such regulations and restrictions on their importation as, in ordinary times, will amount to a prohibition. On the 5th of August 1810, the very day of the Duke of Cadore's noted letter, a duty was imposed on all sea-island cotton, imported into France, of more than eighty cents per pound, and on other cotton of about sixty cents per pound, amounting to three or four times their original cost in the United States. And as to tobacco, the French minister here on the 23d of July 1811, informed our government, that it was "under an administration (*en regie*) in France; the administration (he says) is the only consumer and can purchase only the quantity necessary for its consumption." And by other regulations not more than *one fifteenth* of all the tobacco consumed in France can be of foreign growth. The ordinary quantity of tobacco annually consumed in France is estimated at *thirty thousand hogsheds*, leaving only about two thousand hogsheds of foreign tobacco to be purchased in France.

In addition to these impositions and restrictions, the importer is not left at liberty with respect to his return cargo. By other edicts he is compelled to vest the avails of his importations, if, after paying duties and seizures, any remain, in such articles of French produce and manufacture as the French government thinks proper to direct. Two thirds at least must be laid out in silks, and the other third in wines, brandies, and other articles of that country. To show that this account of our commercial relations with France does not rest on doubtful authority, the undersigned would refer to the statements and declarations of our government on this subject. In a letter from Mr. Smith, the late Secretary of State, to the minister of France here, of the 18th December 1810, speaking of our trade to that country, under its regulations, after the pretended repeal of the decrees, Mr. Smith says, "The restrictions of the Berlin and Milan decrees had the effect of restraining the American merchants from sending their vessels to France. The interdictions in the system that has been substituted, against the admission of American products, will have the effect of imposing on them an equal restraint."

"If then, for the revoked decrees, municipal laws, producing the same commercial effect, have been substituted, the mode only, and not the measure, has undergone an alteration. And however true it may be, that the change is lawful in form, it is nevertheless as true, that it is essentially unfriendly, and that it does not at all comport with the ideas inspired by your letter of the 27th ult. in which you were pleased