

at an exclusive right of framing laws for the commercial correspondence between different states.

On the accession of Spain to the confederacy against Great Britain, fresh representations were made to the States, on the necessity of prohibiting the exportation of naval stores to her enemies; but they had no more effect than the former: the difficulties wherein Britain was involved, seemed, on the contrary, to have infused into the people of Holland a stronger desire to add to the distresses of the British nation.

A formal demand was now made upon Holland on the part of Great Britain, for the succours stipulated by the treaties subsisting between them. The dangers that menaced both states from the family compact of the House of Bourbon, were laid before the Dutch in their strongest colours. But whatever might be the real cause of their averfeness, to listen to the representations from the Court of Great Britain, whether they were intimidated by the vast power displayed by its numerous enemies, or influenced by an invincible jealousy, they still continued in the same unfriendly disposition. No answer was given to the memorial; and all appearances tended to prove a fixed determination to act an inimical part towards Great Britain.

In the beginning of the year eighty, a fleet of merchantmen laden with naval stores for the French navy, sailed from Holland under the convoy of a squadron of men of war. Intelligence of this being brought to England, a squadron was dispatched under Commodore Fielding, to intercept them. On meeting the Dutch fleet, he requested permission to search them as usual; but this was denied, contrary to the right of treaty. Hereupon he sent his boats with orders to insist upon the examination of the cargoes; but they were fired upon by the Dutch commander, Count Byland, and prevented from executing