

the advantages of a friendly country in our rear. These alliances afford us all the benefit which is derived from influence and supremacy. Weak as Holland is, surely France derives advantage from her influence over it. Hers is an influence by usurpation; our influence over these petty states is one of their seeking, and one which they will not resign as long as they can keep it. A proof of this is that the government, in order to get rid of the alliance with Jyepore, sets up a right, false, I think, and unjust, to dissolve it; and proposes to persuade the Rajahs of Bhurtpore and Macheree to resign their alliances with us by offering considerable territory to them.

The most important advantage to us from these alliances is the preservation of these countries from the Mahrattas, and the consequent diminution of Mahratta power, influence, and resources. India contains no more than two great powers, British and Mahratta, and every other state acknowledges the influence of one or the other. Every inch that we recede will be occupied by them. It is a new species of policy to increase our own strength by increasing the power of our rival and natural enemy. Suppose England to have an established influence over Holland, would Ministers glory in their wisdom if they withdrew that influence and threw Holland necessarily under the oppression of France? What is it that should make political wisdom in this country so opposite to what has been considered wisdom in Europe? I have occasionally heard something of a commercial policy belonging to the Company separate from its interests as a sovereign state. Without entering here into the question how far the Company may have benefited by becoming a potentate, and granting, without discussion, the full justice of all the lamentations which are uttered on this subject by many worthy directors and proprietors, I must be allowed to say that it cannot now be helped—the evil is done. Sovereigns you are, and as such must act if you do not mean to destroy the power of acting at all, to demolish your whole corporation, your trade, and your existence. Exe-crate the memories of Clive and Watson, and those who first