

In their commerce to the East Indies, you may see displayed the enterprising spirit of the Americans; the first motive to it, was the hope of economizing in the price of East India goods, which they formerly imported from England, and this economy must be immense, if we judge of it by the great consumption of tea in America, and the high price it bears in England. In the year 1761, the English American colonies sent to England eighty-five thousand pounds sterling in Spanish dollars for this single article, and since that time the consumption of it has at least tripled.

Another motive which encouraged them to push this commerce, was the hope of being able to supply South America, the Spanish and other islands, and even the markets of Europe, with the goods of the east; and to obtain every where the preference, by the low price at which they might be afforded. And this project is not without some foundation. The nature of things invites the Americans to become the first carriers in the world. They build ships at two-thirds of the expence that they are built at in Europe: they navigate with less seamen, and at less expence, although they nourish their seamen better.

The productions of their country are more favourable to this commerce than those of Europe. They carry ginseng to China; plank, ship-timber, flour, and salted provisions to the Cape of Good Hope; and to the isles of France and Bourbon. They are not, therefore, obliged to export so great a proportion of specie as the Europeans, who have establishments in the east. They are not obliged, like them, to maintain, at an enormous expence, troops, forts, ships of war, governors, intendants, secretaries, clerks, of which the  
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