

American bottoms, is evident, from the present Administration having, by an order of council of the 1st of July last, prohibited the importation of *fish* in *American* vessels into the West-India islands.

The deviation from the navigation and colonial system is attempted to be justified by the circumstance of the *Americans* carrying, in this instance, *fish* caught by British subjects, to market; it is stated, "nothing can undoubtedly be more repugnant to the old system of laws under which we have flourished, but at the same time, nothing can more clearly show how inapplicable old laws frequently are to new times." ¹ It surely ought not to be matter of triumph to a British subject, to observe the depression under which one of the most important branches of the trade of Great Britain now labors, principally from the impolicy of continuing the new system, which has encouraged and promoted to so alarming and enormous an extent the *carrying trade* of *America*, that the British traders are no longer able to compete with them, but are obliged to employ the vessels of the United States to take their fish and other articles² to market! Under such circumstances, is it patriotic³ so pointedly to denote the prosperity of *America*—the increase of her trade—and the extension⁴ of her shipping, and to contrast them with the melancholy and depressed state of the British fisheries and Shipping Interest? It may, perhaps, be congenial to the principles and feelings *des avocats Americains* to contemplate and enjoy the distress and ruin of others, when they can indulge the sense of their own prosperity and security.

"Suave, mari magno turbantibus æquora ventis,
E terra magnum alterius spectare laborem."

It, however, cannot fail to irritate the public mind, to see the real interests of the country, thus, attempted to be sacrificed to the speculative theories of some, and to the disappointed or interested views of others, and the wise systems of our forefathers treated with contumely and disrespect; though the experience of centuries has shown they "were more versed in the *practical philosophy* of life than the *speculative* one of the closet; reasoning from the self-preservation of an individual to the self-preservation of a people,

¹ Mr. Baring's Examination, 174.

² See ante, page 47, &c. of last No. of *Pamphleteer*.

³ Anti-jacobin Review for February, 1808, p. 204.

⁴ For the increase of *American tonnage*, see Eden on Maritime Rights; the Supplement to Collection of Reports on Navigation: also the statistical tables published at Washington, in 1806, under the title of *Economica*.

	Tons.
In 1784, it consisted only of	250,000
In 1805,	1,443,453
Total increase of American tonnage	1,193,453