

signed to block up all the ports of France. I might observe, that as the possessions of the principal avenues to a town constitutes a blockade by land, and that it is not necessary, for this purpose, to have made a complete line of circumvallation : so by keeping great squadrons of ships of war cruising constantly before the ports of an enemy, by destroying in this manner totally his trade, and preventing his fleets of war from ever venturing out, except now and then a ship or two by stealth, a blockade ought certainly to be considered as completely established by sea. I might farther prove the cause from its effects, and shew that the American islands at least have experienced all the consequences of such a situation, where want of communication with the mother country, distress and famine, fully declare that they have been invested. But as this topic may not perhaps relate to the case of every capture, and depends on the particular state of a variety of facts, I shall not dwell any longer upon it at present ; the question hath here, I hope, sufficiently been argued on principles, which are plain and comprehensive, on those equitable regulations which nature hath established among nations, and on those particular contracts with which communities have bound themselves ; and, as I before endeavoured to prove that neutral nations had no right, by the former of these obligations, to protect the property of the enemy, so now it has been shewn by what policy the Dutch first obtained this privilege,—by what treaties it hath since been taken from them,—and by what conduct they have lately forfeited whatever