relations which the neutrals themselves establish with the enemy.

Those relations have compelled the assertion by belligerents of a right to visit and search neutral merchantmen in all circumstances, and of a correlative duty in the neutrals to submit to visit and search whenever it is claimed. There is in this a very direct interference with the Freedom of the Seas. Round this question all the historic disputes have centred, for the neutrals denied the duty and resisted the exercise of this right.

The wars in which these disputes arose were those in which a yet larger issue was involved, a struggle for world-dominion. Of such wars England inevitably became the pivot. For, if one country hold the command of the sea, so great is its influence that, even with little strength on land, it interposes an effective bar to the achievement of the ambition.

Such was the position of England. By the development of sea-power, the natural resource of an island kingdom, she created from the surrounding seas the barrier of her safety. Hence the later struggles for world-dominion have involved an attempt to wrest from England the supremacy of the seas.

It must be conceded that the rules of sea warfare cannot be framed to suit the exigencies of one country's position in the world. But the point involved is this: that an analysis of the history of these conflicts condemns the principles which enemy and neutral sought to force on England, because it reveals the true motive underlying them, and shows very clearly that the principles which the neutrals proclaimed did in fact very largely concern and benefit the enemy.

Not the least of these important facts is that the most vehement assertions of these principles by the neutrals have coincided with projects for the invasion of England. The foundations of the dispute were laid in the time of the Armada; it grew in strength in 1756, was further developed in 1783, and reached its zenith in 1805. History has lately repeated itself.

An analysis of the principles themselves leads to the