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blockade, or the larger operations of commerce-destroying, has always been based on the necessity of preventing that assistance reaching the enemy. The standing illustration is the incessant dispute between England and France during the two years which preceded the declaration of war in 1778, when the professed object of the Cabinet at Versailles was to assist the American Colonies in their rebellion.

The historical method is essential to the understanding of what, for want of a better term, is called "International Law"; and the object of this little book is to give in outline the story of the different periods when England's action at sea was challenged by combinations of the Neutral Powers.

F. T. P.

EDITORIAL NOTE

THIS treatise is confined to the historical side of the question, and avoids any discussion of its controversial aspects, except in so far as these form part of its history. It is issued to the public as supplying an indispensable preliminary to the understanding of present conditions and international difficulties.

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