

France, in the mean time, conscious of the necessity of procuring this resource to her marine, insisted peremptorily on its being protected by the States, in the same manner as every other branch of the Dutch trade. So strenuous was the French ministry in asserting the propriety of this measure, that it threatened to consider a relaxation of the demands made upon Great Britain by Holland, as an infraction of the neutrality which Holland was bound to observe between France and Great Britain, and as an evident proof of partiality to the latter. The French Ambassador presented a memorial to the States on this subject, urging them in the most pressing manner, to an effectual and speedy compliance with the requisition of his Court.

In order to encourage the importation of naval stores a regulation was issued in France in the month of July seventy-eight, by which such various advantages were granted to neutral vessels as accorded with the views of being supplied through their means with the necessaries for her navy. But on the States not complying with the requisition of the French ministry in the manner it had proposed, these advantages were revoked with respect to the subjects of Holland; the city of Amsterdam alone excepted; which had warmly espoused the cause of France, and demanded of the States the equipment of a squadron for the protection of its navigation to that kingdom, against the British cruisers.

Notwithstanding the authority assumed by the Court of France, in prescribing to the Dutch in what manner they should observe their treaties with Great Britain, the French faction in Holland was so powerful, that instead of resenting this freedom, it was represented as justifiable and well founded. Clamours in the mean time increased against the British government; and it was described as aiming