

Thou glorious mirror where the Almighty's form
Glasses itself in tempests; in all time,
Calm or convulsed; in breeze or gale or storm,
Icing the pole, or in the torrid clime
Dark heaving—boundless, endless and sublime—
The image of Eternity, the throne
Of the Invisible; even from out thy slime
The monsters of the deep are made; each zone
Obeys thee; thou goest forth dread, fathomless, alone.

“The sea is His, and He made it,” is a frequent acknowledgment in various forms by the inspired prophets, and the special blasphemy for which the prophet Ezekiel was moved to denounce the great maritime power of Tyre was that that Kingdom claimed the sovereignty of the seas by right of its own will. “Because thy heart is lifted up, and thou hast said: ‘I am a god, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas’ ”

Thus, the first needs of all created life, the voice of universal nature, and the authority of Holy Writ all constrain us to one common confession, that the “command of the sea” is the sovereign right of its Creator alone. Is it not folly towards men, insanity towards Heaven, that any two or three nations should be preparing to “incarnadize the multitudinous seas” upon a phantasmal claim of its control in their own right? Tyre made this blasphemous claim, but what was the end of Tyre? So complete an extinction of her commercial and political power that the exact site of the older of the two cities has not been determined by explorers to this day. Dominion over the lower animals of land and sea was allowed to mankind at large, and the use of land and sea was permitted for this purpose, but to no nation or class was ever committed such universal dominion over their fellowman as is implied in command of the sea. It will be better for Great Britain and Germany to follow the example of Nineveh by appointing a day of fasting and humiliation than to outdo Tyre in its monstrous assumption of the attributes of Omnipotence.