

metropolitan kingdom; and the orders of its sovereign in council, which, in 1807, shut up the sea. The one will show how that power was acquired which swept the fleets of all nations from the face of the waters; the other, how that victory was used. For as nothing has transmitted a more exalted opinion of the naval power of ancient Greece, than the treaty which prohibited the great king from passing certain Capes or coming within sight of the sea, so hereafter can nothing give posterity so grand a conception of the power and policy of Great Britain, as that mandate, which forbade the world to trade with her enemies except through her own ports, and that muster-roll of auxiliary colonies, whose industry and commerce enabled her to enforce the decree. In our case too, as in that of Athens, the same inquiry can not fail to be made by future times, and perhaps the same answer given.

*"Ast, cedo, quomodo rempublicam tantam perdidistis tam cito?"*

*"Proveniebant Oratores, novi, stulti, adolescentuli."*

It cannot be, that a reformed parliament will be led into such measures, and by such men, as to occasion that interrogatory, or justify that answer. It cannot be, that inability to administer a great and powerful empire is to be coucealed, by making it as small as the capacities, or as distracted as the counsels, of any administration. The best result to commercial questions expected from Reform was, that the introduction of men of business from the maritime and manufacturing towns, would make scholastic theories of economy, as yet no less misconceived than misapplied, give place at last to inquiry, and to facts, and experience, and truth; that no longer the