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and plunder friends as well as the nations with  
 which they are at open war. The American  
 commerce is well known to have suffered severely  
 in the present contest between England and the  
 belligerent powers, which are now at war on the  
*most frivolous pretence*. Our ships while in pursuit  
 of lawful commerce, have been seized by this law-  
 less banditti and sent into their ports for what  
 they call adjudication ; and admitting we are so  
 lucky as to get liberated, the long detention, and  
 the heavy expences attending these sham trials,  
 have destroyed the fairest prospects, to the great  
 injury and undoubtedly the utter ruin of many  
 an honest and industrious citizen : so that admit-  
 ting every crime to be a stripe in Neptune's back,  
 it of course is well filled. However, their accu-  
 mulated crimes have warp'd up the public indig-  
 nation, and to be or not to be, will soon be the  
 question.—I shall now notice the precarious situ-  
 ation to which Britain has plunged herself into,  
 by interfering with her neighbors immediate con-  
 cerns : At the time the French began a reform  
 in their government, the English commercial flag  
 was seen flying in every part of the habitable globe,  
 their ships freighted with their manufactures, and  
 in return were freighted back with raw materials,  
 which undoubtedly gave bread to thousands and  
 perhaps millions of their industrious poor. But  
 alas, the contrast ! look over the map of the  
 world and you will find from the mouth of the  
 Elbe to the north of Portugal, every port hostile  
 to the introduction of the articles of their manu-  
 factures ; from the south of Portugal up the  
 Mediterranean, round the boot of Italy into the  
 Adriatic sea, much in the same situation ; their  
 trade in the Levant to appearance ruined, and