

were supplied with all kind of materials for the construction and equipment of fleets, with as much readiness and assiduity, as if France and Holland had formed the closest alliance against Britain.

Though incensed at such unprovoked usage, Britain went no further than to seize those Dutch vessels that were loaded with naval stores for the French ports. The States of Holland pleaded the letter of a treaty made a century ago; but they were given to understand that nothing could be more ungenerous and unjust than to insist on the fulfilling of a treaty which the circumstances of the present time rendered inadmissible. Britain could not permit Holland to supply France with naval stores, without exposing herself to imminent danger. There were a numberless variety of other articles in trade, from the importation of which into France the Dutch might derive immense profits, without furnishing that power with the means of injuring Great Britain.

In order to take away all pretences of complaint from the Dutch, the British government, instead of making prizes of the vessels laden with these hostile cargoes, came to the generous determination to purchase at a fair valuation, all the naval stores that were on board the Dutch vessels brought into the ports of Great Britain, to pay the freight of the cargoes, and to indemnify the proprietors in all the just expences and damages occasioned by the detention of their vessels.

While the Court of Great Britain was repeatedly complaining of the obstinacy with which the Dutch merchants continued to furnish the French with naval stores, these, on the other hand, presented a memorial to the States, remonstrating against the seizure of their vessels employed in that business, and requiring protection for their prosecuting it in safety.

France,