

peace subsisted between the two countries, to the amount of 4 millions sterling; now that no further booty is likely to present itself under the Berlin and Milan decrees, the Americans are *now* told that "free bottoms make free goods:" This suits the *present* purpose of the *Grand Usurpateur*. But I am sure the Americans will find as little security from this, as they did from the letter of the Minister of Marine, by which it was declared that the decree of Berlin was not intended in contravention of the existing treaties with America\*.

The letter goes on thus:—Judge, you who have a knowledge of the history of the few last years: "In *all* her conquests, France has considered *sacred*† "private property, deposited in the warehouses of the vanquished States, and such have had the complete disposal of matters of trade; and at this moment convoys by land of merchandize, and

\* The letter alluded to is signed by Monsieur *Champagny*, the present Minister for Foreign Affairs; but I am convinced, from internal evidence, that it is the production of Monsieur *Le Conseiller d'Etat* Hauterive.—In the year 1800, I translated into English his book, intitled "*L'Etat de la France à la fin de l'an VIII.*" which contains the very principles now held out to the world in the letter in question. During the first twelve months of my residence in Paris, I was very intimate with *Monsieur Hauterive*: and from that intimacy I take upon myself to say, that, though he published such opinions to the world, he is far from *approving* of them. He is too enlightened a statesman, and too well acquainted with the writings of Grotius, Puffendorf, Vattel, &c. to say that "free bottoms ought to make free goods."

† I suppose the writer borrowed this word from the Latin *sacrum*, the original meaning of which is something devoted to the Gods, something with which nobody must interfere, but the *vicegerent* of Europe.