

atoned. But there is this further difference between the *former* British orders and the *present* French decrees ; namely, that at first, the French were considered by European nations as *rebels and insurgents*, and as not entitled to the common usages of war ; just as this free country consents to consider the negroes in Saint Domingo as insurgents, from whom supplies may be lawfully withheld, *by an act of Congress.*

The dispute respecting neutrals will be best seen in a familiar point of view. When nations go to war, the principle of destroying each others property, comforts and persons, is usually limited by certain rules ; and the writers on the law of nations collect these rules from the great facts which pass in the world, and from the theories which these facts will bear to have connected with them. For those rules, however, to be valid in any given case, it is clear that they must be observed on *both* sides ; and that if one side departs from them, an equivalent, countervailing departure is authorized on the other. It is then that the interests of a third party come into view, namely, those of a neutral power. The neutral powers have a right to say, that *if possible*, matters ought to be so adjusted, as that their trade shall not be hurt. But if it so happens, that one of the belligerent powers goes to such extremities, that the other party cannot inflict equivalent restraints, without injuring neutrals, neutrals must suffer ; but then they must be made only to suffer in a manner, which shall shew that, not only the first, but the sole intention of every restriction is to hurt the *enemy* and not the *neutral*. Active neutrals, in general, may reasonably expect to enjoy as much trade as before the war ; but if they are not content with enjoying *as much* trade in kind as before the war, and *much more in quantity*, but ask to be admitted to enjoy *new branches of trade*, with one party, (such as the colony trade) which will destroy the balance between the belligerents, then the other party may interfere to check this. Nor is it any thing unreasonable for the party which checks the colonial trade of its enemy under a neutral flag, to open its own ports to the same flag ;