

The new system originated in an order of council of the 16th January, 1795, which was extended by a subsequent order of the 21st of the same month, and was afterwards established by the Dutch Property Acts, and those made in consequence of them: by which any *neutral* ships whatsoever, and however manned, were allowed to bring to this kingdom any sort of goods from any country or place whatsoever, under an order of his Majesty in council. The first act passed on this subject, was the 35th Geo. 3d. c. 15. which allowed the inhabitants of the *United Provinces*, to bring and land their goods and effects in Great Britain, under the limitations therein mentioned; and, before the close of that session, by another act, the 35th Geo. 3d. c. 80. the proprietors of all goods that had or might afterwards come in, were allowed to take them out of warehouse, and either re-export or otherwise dispose of them, upon payment of the duties, and complying with the regulations contained in the act.

By the 36th Geo. 3d. c. 76. a *new* principle was adopted, and the provisions of the two former acts very generally extended, though for a limited period, under orders of council, to ships belonging to any country in *amity* with his Majesty, and which was, as well as the two former acts, continued by subsequent statutes; namely, the 37th Geo. 3d. c. 12.; the 38th Geo. 3. c. 9.; and the 39th Geo. 3. c. 12. In the last of these sessions, by the statute c. 112. the suspending power was further extended, and his Majesty authorized, for a limited period, to permit any such goods as should be specified in any order of council to be imported in ships belonging to the subjects of any state in *amity* with his majesty.

These four acts relating to Neutral Ships were continued by the 39th and 40th Geo. 3d. c. 9. and c. 17. The *three* former were finally continued by the 39th and 40th Geo. 3. c. 65. to the 1st of January, 1804; and the *latter* by the 41st Geo. 3d. G. B. c. 20. which having expired, was renewed by the 41st Geo. 3. U. K. c. 19. and continued for a limited period.

The Peace of Amiens soon after taking place, the three first acts were taken into consideration, and repealed by the 42d Geo. 3. c. 80., in which other provisions were substituted, for continuing this trade in neutral shipping, in a manner supposed to be less invidious to the Shipping