

valent, and so powerful was the universal malevolence to Britain, and so unquestionably was it reputed the interest of Europe to co-operate in the humiliation of her maritime grandeur. In this manner was formed that universal association of the neutral powers in Europe against Great Britain, which assumed the denomination of "Armed Neutrality."

Of all those states whose conduct was inimical to Britain during the contest with America, none afforded juster cause of resentment than that of Holland. Since the commencement of that unhappy quarrel, a clandestine commerce had been carried on between the Dutch and the Americans, highly prejudicial to the affairs of Great Britain. The encouragement given to the revolted Colonies was open and manifest. They were not only furnished with all manner of supplies, but undisguised countenance and respect were shewn to their flag, in a manner incompatible with the honour and dignity of Great Britain.

Representations had frequently been made to the States General of this impropriety of conduct in their subjects, by the British Ambassador at the Hague, Sir Joseph Yorke, who complained in a memorial presented in the month of February, seventy-seven, of the disregard shewn to several antecedent remonstrances, and insisted on a behaviour in future more satisfactory to the Court of Britain, insinuating, that in case of non-compliance, due resentment would be shewn.

Though a respectful answer was returned to this remonstrance, the correspondence still continued between the Dutch and the Americans on the same footing as before.

On the rupture with France, this unfriendly disposition towards Great Britain on the part of Holland was exhibited more openly, and exerted with a higher hand than ever. The dock-yards of France