

We are told it is proper to court the trade with the American States, but their treaties with France and Holland in direct terms forbid our being put on a better footing than those countries. *

The state of our manufactures make it unnecessary, and nothing can be more weak than the idea of courting commerce, † America will have from us what she cannot get cheaper and better elsewhere, and she will sell to us what we want from her as cheap as she will to others. But in other respects she will assume a tone of importance, she will partake of the nature of new men; she has indulged and will indulge in puerile insolence; in that, perhaps, she will not shew herself much unlike her parent, — but she has sense and information; all her people in some shape or other are commercial, and in that line particularly they are knowing and intelligent.

* *Article II. of the Treaty of Commerce between France and the United States of America, "the most Christian King and the United States engage mutually not to grant any particular favour to other nations, in respect of commerce and navigation, which shall not immediately become common to the other party, who shall enjoy the same favour freely."*

† By ineffectual and unnecessary attempts to court American commerce, we shall disgust nations with whom we have great intercourse, and prejudice the best trade we have. Our exports to the Baltic and the countries North of Holland are equal to what our exports to the American States were at any time, and more real British shipping has been employed to the North, than had ever been employed to the American States. Before the war, very few British ships went to the ports north of Philadelphia; they went principally to the Southern States.

List of ships that, passed the sound, to and from the Baltic, for three years preceeding 1782

Nation	Ships in 1779	Ships in 1780	Ships in 1781
British - - -	1651	1701	2001
Dutch - - -	2075	2058	9
French - - -	0	0	0

It is curious to observe the increase of our shipping to the Baltic, and the decrease of the Dutch in one year from 2058 to 9 ships only, — and that not one French ship passed the Sound during three years. [*Because the English had a stronger fleet.*]

The British shipping that went to Hamburg and other ports of the North was also very considerable, but of the 2001 British ships that passed the Sound to and from the Baltic, the greater part made two voyages, and probably we had not more than 6 or 700 ships employed in that trade.