

the whole of Europe ; the peninsula of India, even though at a great distance, was not perfectly beyond the reach of the conqueror ; but the opposite shores of the Atlantic bid defiance to his power, and could only be reached by that naval superiority which would equally enable him to attack us in our own islands.

France having nearly attained the utmost extent of her means of commercial annoyance, could only hope from ourselves the destruction of the valuable part of it beyond her reach. The Berlin Decrees have very much the appearance of a provocation to try our temper. We formerly pursued steadily our interest with a dignified disregard of menacing language ; but now—we have been insulted, and something vigorous must be done in retaliation. France has used big words, but we will reply with big actions, and in the violence of our passion we have perhaps done the very thing which those words were intended to provoke. The mistaken opinions in this country of the nature and consequences of the French Revolution, have probably contributed more than any other cause to the present gigantic power of France. The exaggerated consequences expected from the successive national bankruptcies ; the attempt to crush the revolution by external force, are errors of which we are surprised to have ever been the dupe ;