

and which the several Assemblies could not meet upon without renouncing their union in Congress; was the true reason why the one could not be accepted, and why the second was inadmissible in treaty: not that the Americans were not willing to treat, or had not many interesting concerns to treat for, as will appear more fully in the following state of the circumstances and relations in which they stood towards the sovereign Powers of the earth, amongst whom they declared themselves *to have taken their equal station*.

From the moment that they declared that their allegiance to the British Crown was absolved, and that their political connection with the British state was dissolved, they became aliens in Great Britain; a trading nation of aliens, without any treaties of commerce, such as regulate the commercial intercourse, under the like benefits which nations having treaties of commerce with Great Britain enjoy.

If they trade with other nations, and wish to trade at large, and not by an exclusive trade with any one only, they must make commercial treaties particular with each nation, and settle the whole arrangement of tariffs peculiar to the terms