

(as I suspect) then the *Dutch* can never rise again to be a Maritime Power of great Eminence in *Europe*: for, as it is the present Practice to build Ships much larger and sharper in Proportion than usual, (by which Means they carry greater Weight of Metal, sail better, and require deeper Water than formerly) it seems to me impossible to admit Ships of that Construction into the *Dutch* Ports; and therefore that Nation cannot for the future contend upon equal Terms with the other Maritime Powers of *Europe*. If then the *Dutch* cannot be our Barrier, either as a Maritime Power, or in any other Respect, to what Purpose has been all our Expence of Wars upon the Continent, in pursuance of that *false Maxim*? And of what Advantage can the Conquest of such a Country be to *France*, when deserted by the present Inhabitants, whose Tenaciousness of their Liberty and Religion would most certainly induce them to prefer Freedom and Safety in so near a Retreat as *Britain*, to Bondage in their own Country: as the old *Tyrians* forsook the Continent, and settled upon a neighbouring Island, where they lived free from all fear of the *Assyrian* Power, and gave Being to the *Carthaginian* State, which grew to be the greatest Maritime Power of that Age.

But after all, can this Nation want any other Barrier than its own Navy, and the Sea, cast round it by the Hand of Providence? Is it not populous enough for its own Defence against all the Powers of *Europe* in Conjunction, if