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Remarks on the Union of the ATLANTIC and PACIFIC OCEANS; by a Canal across the Isthmus of DARIEN or PANAMA.

The unprecedented exertions which the different nations of Europe have been compelled to make for self-preservation during the late years of a long and bloody war, have reduced them to such a state of exhaustion, that it requires the employment of every means in their power to arouse their energy and call forth their national vigour. It is to commerce alone that we can look for the necessary renovating remedy; it is from an extension and increased activity of its pursuits that we can expect a restoration of that energy, and a replenishing of those exhausted finances, which have been so freely expended, both in repelling aggression and crushing despotic tyranny. Many years have elapsed since there was a period so favourable for the application of national power to this purpose; and this circumstance, along with the necessity for such an application, gives a sufficient reason for noticing every object upon which national power or wealth could be with propriety expended for the promotion of commerce.

Of all the improvements which would operate in the advancement of commercial pursuits, there is perhaps not one of such magnitude in its effects, or in whose benefits so many nations would share, as that one alluded to in the title to this article. If a canal of a sufficient size was cut between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans—Europe, Asia, and America, would all share in the advantages of it. There is perhaps not a colony or settlement in either of these three quarters of the globe, where commerce is known but what would have it increased by such an improvement; and in many countries where the business of the merchant is now unknown, was this improvement once made, resources and talent would soon be directed to mercantile pursuits, and these countries rise, by rapid strides, to a state of importance in the scale of nations.

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