

wind; and the reaping will be attended with such a tempest, as shall scatter through the world the fragments of the mighty, the rich, and prosperous Empire of Great Britain, dissolve the United Kingdom into three republics, England to an heptarchy, and each heptarchy to an anarchy, till five persons shall be divided in one house, three against two, and two against three. For what one sign, the precursor of falling dynasty, has not been observed by some party; or what remedy proposed by any, which the rest do not declare worse than the disease? God forbid such omens! God avert their prognostics! But whenever that empire, like all human combinations, shall have reached its dissolution and term, there are two things which will remain in its annals, to fill the minds of after-ages with marvel and praise; two public documents will alone suffice to convey an adequate, and truly a sublime, idea of the riches and the power of that confederacy; viz. the catalogue of its dominions and of their trade and navigation with the metropolitan kingdom, and the orders of its sovereign in council, which, in 1807, shut up the sea. The one will show how that power was acquired, which swept the fleets of all nations from the face of the waters; the other, how that victory was used. For as nothing has transmitted a more exalted opinion of the naval power of ancient Greece, than the treaty which prohibited the great king from passing certain capes or coming within sight of the Ægæan, so hereafter can nothing give posterity a grander conception of the power and policy of Great Britain, than that mandate, which forbade the world to trade with her enemies except through her own ports, and that muster-roll of auxiliary colonies, whose industry and commerce enabled her to enforce the decree. In