

best judged. At all events, it must serve to reduce our idea of the extreme annoyance to them which we expect from our measures.

The sources of power and strength vary widely in different countries. The general destruction of commerce, manufactures, and of every circumstance of artificial power and prosperity, may suit the interest of France, but we should be greatly mistaken in imitating her. The disorganization of commerce and of industry has not improperly been considered as the best means of subduing a power whose basis rests upon them. But while our enemy is playing this wild but politic game, we must not forget that our safety requires the very opposite system of prudence and cautious preservation.

France, in attacking our commerce, has proceeded upon the self-evident supposition, that a trading country must have others to trade with. From Europe she has therefore excluded us; but with prudence and skill we might move our island, commercially speaking, out of Europe. The great empire in the North of America, and in a less degree the newly-founded one in the South, would have been sufficient objects of external commerce until better times returned; and it must have been no small gratification to reflect that these were holds of which the enemy could not dispossess us. We might be expelled from