

against Great Britain, of having set up new and extravagant doctrines, is not supported by the history of facts. The right of a belligerent to prevent a trade not open to neutrals in peace is *not a new claim*; and although it is difficult to enforce it in some cases, without encroaching on the acknowledged rights of neutrals to carry on their accustomed trade; therefore its exercise ought to be limited. Yet, it is certain, that in one important branch of trade, the right of prohibition is allowed to the belligerent. The Russian treaty of 1801, admits that the trade of an enemy colony with its parent state, may be lawfully interdicted by the belligerent. Whoever, with this fact, will recollect the circumstances of the times, and the chivalrous spirit with which Russia has for thirty years offered herself as the champion of neutral rights, must be convinced that this point could have been yielded by Russia, only to a demonstration of its propriety.

It is well known that Bonaparte had formed a precise plan for distressing Britain, which he caused his European dependent allies to adopt, and the state in which we now are, seems to put us fairly in a class with those allies. We have passed laws to prevent the introduction of the commodities of Britain; we refuse the supply of her Colonies in American, English and even neutral Vessels, and by land as well as by sea; we deny the use of our ports and even common hospitality to her Ships, while our harbours are open to the Ships of every other nation. Now all this is little short of what is done in Europe. It is much more however than the people of the United States would have been willing to do, if they had not been deceived, and in some sort, taken by surprise; or if what is done had been proposed at once, instead of being the effects of several measures, the motives of which were not understood.

Such is the agreement of our conduct with French wishes, as to trade and intercourse with the British. But Bonaparte has demanded *tribute* in addition: and he has got tribute from us, as he has got it from many nations in Europe; but this, like every thing else obtained of us by him, he has got under false names. "France" says Mr. Madison, "wants money and must have it"; for Mr. Madison has perfect intelligence of what France wants, though the intelligence is refused to Congress.