

The payment of this balance, together with the uncommon demands from Turkey, and Russia, about this time, brought immense sums of money into the nation, and occasioned a circulation of trade and business that kept up for a while the spirits of the mercantile classes, and prevented any complaints for want of the American commerce.

Add to this, the increasing necessity of large and expensive supplies to the fleets and armies that were waging war at such a distance, and in so many different parts. The complicated variety of public exigencies was now such, as to afford subsistence and profit to a multitude of branches. The numerous shipping employed for these purposes, the many contracts, and other beneficial methods of dealing, occasioned by the measures so extensively pursued, made them in some respects extremely popular. Present emoluments effectually hid the prospect of future detriment; and the crowds that participated in the gains arising from all these quarters, were not only animated themselves, but contributed to encourage others in the prosecution of a war that procured them so lucrative a maintenance.

But numbers of those commercial individuals, whose insight into the causes of the prodigious influx of money that had lately taken place, led them to fear that it would not continue, were as strenuous as ever in their disapprobation of hostilities with America. The majority in the trading towns were of this opinion. The great body of the people still continued divided; but the plurality were inclined to peace. They considered the Americans as brethren, and though they were not willing to yield to their threats, and would have gladly seen them humbled in the field of battle, yet this proceeded purely from the point of national honour. They would not, with the like satisfaction, have seen them