

perhaps, in order to regain the opportunity which he threw away by his folly and guilt at St. Domingo, and his splenetic temper at Paris.— He would make peace, I doubt not, anew, that he might recover the means of preparing better for war; but would be impatient and alarmed, till he could again place the fence of national enmity, between the people of England and France.

These prospects, I admit, are cheerless; but let us not make them quite desperate, by surrendering our natural arms. There are conjunctures in which

“ Fear, admitted into public councils,

“ Betrays like treason.”

—But the reins are in no timid hands; and, after all, unless we mean to abandon all that remains yet unsurrendered of our maritime rights, peace is more likely to be maintained with the neutral powers, by a firm than a pusillanimous conduct; for experience has shewn that they will not be content, while any restriction whatever remains on their intercourse with the enemy, which fraud cannot wholly elude.

To conclude.—A temperate assertion of the true principles of the law of war in regard to neutral commerce, seems, as far as human foresight can penetrate, essential to our public safety.