

so powerful a barrier to the designs in agitation against Great Britain, that while their validity was allowed, no just complaint could be framed against the conduct of the British ministry.

The only method remaining therefore to arraign it, was to call in question the rectitude of those principles, and to establish a new system of maritime laws, contrary to those which had been so long in force. By these means the pretences of Britain would be overthrown, and the right she claimed of intercepting the supplies carried to her enemies, would be entirely annulled.

That power which took the lead in the promulgation of this new system was Russia; one that ought, according to all the rules of what seemed just policy, to have acted a friendly part to Britain, and discountenanced a measure which tended so manifestly to detriment her in a material degree.

It was under the protection of ancient maxims, and customs, that Britain maintained the arduous conflict against so many powerful enemies with no small success. It was for that reason alone that Europe determined they should undergo a total alteration.

Whatever might be the secret motives for so extraordinary a determination in the Court of Russia, it was with just surprize the Court of Great Britain received notice that it had formed a code of naval regulations, which militated in the direcest manner against the practices hitherto observed in Europe, and were evidently levelled at the maritime power of this country.

It was a matter of peculiar astonishment that Russia should be at the head of a combination so injurious to Great Britain. The favours she had received from the British ministry, in her late war with the Turks, and still more the commercial benefits resulting from a connection with this country,