

by all) of his successors, they were determined to adhere to the system of suspension, notwithstanding the injurious consequences which had previously resulted from it, and the depression they would ultimately produce on the naval power of the country.

These explanatory observations, whilst they exculpate the shipping interest from the charge of having *attempted to impose* on parliament, and of *ferocious* conduct in their opposition to the *American Intercourse Bill*, will, it is trusted, counteract the illiberal attempts to prejudice their character and reputation: experience has shown, that although the shipping interest, in a crisis like the present, forbear to press on the government of the country their claim of attention to their particular case; it is not to be doubted, but that under more favorable circumstances, they will avail themselves of every constitution: ¹ means to induce the legislature to adopt such measures as will protect their property from the ruin which will await it, if the maritime rights of the country continue to be sacrificed and abandoned to the theoretic speculations, and near-sighted philosophy of the *modern* economists; who, by their inability and empiricism, have encouraged in neutral powers an insatiate cupidity to demand *further* concessions; ² and thus have brought upon the nation many of those difficulties and embarrassments in which it is now placed. For, as Dr. Johnson has truly remarked, "to make concessions is to encourage encroachments."

The persevering efforts of the *American party* in this country, who call for a revision, or rather for an abrogation of our navigation and colonial system, and boldly proclaim, that the *only* remedy which promises some permanent and much temporary relief to the British West-India planters, is to open the ports *generally to neutrals*; ³ must be obvious to every one who has viewed with attention and impartiality, the mild and conciliatory conduct of Great Britain towards America.

Not content with the powerful influence which they have unfortunately obtained, their endeavours appear to be directed to

But his alarm had become extreme since he had heard a noble Lord (Grenville) distinguished for his great abilities and information, to whom neither levity nor imprudence could be imputed, hold a language, which appeared to him intended to prepare us, in consequence of the change of times and things, for a relinquishment of the most essential parts of our navigation and colonial system."

Also see Mr. For's speech on the same bill, on the 22nd of May, 1806. "I have no difficulty in saying, that in my opinion the course should always be, in time of war at least, such as is proposed by this bill to make it, and I am not sure that it may not be necessary also in time of peace!"

¹ Edinburgh Review, &c.

² Cobbett's Political Register, 13 vol. p. 427.

³ Mr. Baring's Examination, p. 167.