

close of the last war, had learned the secret of paralyzing this species of hostility. Can it then be expected, that with no enemy on the ocean, and with double the number of ships of war, she will sit still, and permit us peaceably to rob her citizens? Every naval officer, and every merchant knows, however ignorant they may be at Washington, that fifty fast sailing frigates would as completely blockade our ports, and secure our privateers from the power of doing injury, as if they were under lock and key, or hauled up à la Jefferson, in the dry docks of the Potomac.

We proceed then to consider the *other* branch of our means of annoyance, which may be called commercial warfare.—It is maintained, that we can by a war bring Great-Britain to an acknowledgment of our claims; by confiscating the debts due to her merchants; by ruining her manufacturers; by refusing to be clothed; and by starving her West-India colonies. Although it would be easy to shew, that all these measures would eventually produce more distress to the United States than to Great-Britain, that in all cases of this nature, the dependence is mutual, and that in such contests, the *poorest* state always suffers the most; yet I shall leave this point to the good sense of my readers, and consider them as operating only on Great-Britain.

First then, we are to carry on the war, and to distress our enemy

"If we look back to the two last years of our revolutionary war, a judgment may be formed on this point. A striking defect in her naval arrangements in preceding years, left our ports open for the entry of commerce, for the equipment of privateers, and the introduction of prizes. A different arrangement in the latter part of the war, totally changed the scene. The small privateers were hauled up as unable to cope with armed merchantmen, and the larger privateers were taken. Our shipping fell at the same time a sacrifice to the vigilant operations of the British navy.

"At the present moment (1795) her naval power is extended beyond all former examples; while *that of her enemies* is at least *not increased*.

"2dly. Our landed as well as commercial interests would suffer beyond all calculation. Agriculture above the supply of our own wants, would be suspended, or its *produce perish on our banks*. The value of our lands and every species of domestick property would sink.

"3dly. The sources of revenue failing, publick credit would be destroyed, and multitudes of citizens involved in ruin. The *people at large* would be plunged from the summit of prosperity into an abyss of ruin, too sudden and too severe to be patiently borne. To increase their calamities, *direct taxes* must be levied to support the war; and it would be happy for us if we could contemplate only *foreign war*, in which *all might unite*."