

discussion too far beyond my abilities, I shall relate facts, leaving professional men to draw conclusions from them. This disorder confines its ravages to the sea-coast, and there is no instance of its having been propagated in the country.

In the summer of 1794, which deprived Philadelphia of nearly one-sixth of its population, one house in the country, less than a mile distant from the city, was the retreat of twenty-four families, who all escaped the infection. At New York they have never seen it extend beyond the rivers, although great numbers of sick are daily crossing them, seeking a purer air.

I am unable to determine whether my account of it will be of any utility; but if the disease which afflicts some parts of Europe, be the same which has ravaged for some years the maritime cities of America, it is an atrocious act of cruelty to shut against those who are infected the road to the country, whither they may go without injury to society.—I say, that to sacrifice whole villages, to deliver up their inhabitants to despair, in debarring them every means of escaping death, without being certain of their infecting others, is a crime worthy only of those barbarous ages from which we believe ourselves so far removed. And, lastly, if the American government had followed this plan, its finest cities would have been destroyed, and its richest possessions ruined.

The commerce of the United States is certainly considerable. Like that of Holland, it has risen from the ruins of nations engaged in war; and consequently will not, after peace in Europe, display the same activity.

Since the establishment of their independence, the United States have, by the wisdom of their government, acquired a degree of prosperity and power which has already been regarded by some European nations with envy.

New York principally furnishes the West Indian colonies with provisions. Sugar, cotton, indigo, coffee, and, in short, all the produce which they receive in payment, is exported in their ships to Europe, and exchanged for territorial produce or manufactures, which they either bring back to the colonies, or to the United States, for consumption. Besides this, England and France have, in those years of scarcity with which they have been afflicted, found resources from this rising and industrious people. The excessive price of provisions in those dreadful times, has driven many from Europe to America.

Besides the export-trade, New York possesses an extremely valuable branch of industry. The building of ships will for a long time be a source of wealth and prosperity. The goodness of