

Such a council might prevent future occasions of war from commercial quarrels. The present vague state of the marine law of nations is so apparent as to create a necessity for such a measure. At present, all principle, rule, and law, seem to be as much lost as if the nations were fallen back to the old state of piracy amidst their ancient barbarism. Europe cannot, even in war, proceed under the present abrogation of all treaties, and of all the laws of nations.

The cardinal points which will come under deliberation will be, 1. How far, in right and policy, it may be best for all to establish the **MARE LIBERUM**: and how far each nation, providing for the property and dominion, which they hold in Bays and Harbours, may accede to this establishment, as a law of nations. 2. How far the **JUS NAVIGANDI** may be established. 3. This will lead to deliberation on the **LIBERTAS UNIVERSALIS COMMERCIORUM**; free Ports, and free Markets. It will be best, by degrees, to abolish Port Duties, and raise their revenues by Excise, Tailles, &c. and other internal sources of finance, immediately laid on the consumer. This measure would make that country which adopted it a free port, a circumstance very desirable to every well-wisher to his country.

*Voilà tout ce qu'on peut raisonnablement exiger. Il n'est au pouvoir de l'humanité, que de préparer, et d'agir. Le succès est l'ouvrage d'une main plus puissante.* Sully, liv. 30.

THE END.