

this be altogether destroyed, as importations will take place, in spite of our utmost vigilance. With the supplies for the colonies of our enemies we do not pretend to interfere; and although they must lose their present extensive means of sale for their produce, sufficient will remain to prevent any extreme distress.

But we have a strong proof of the opinion of the enemy on this subject, in the singular coincidence that, while we were determining that the neutral state of America was injurious to us, he had come to precisely the opposite conclusion; and a very short time before the appearance of our Orders in Council, it seems that the intention of France to permit no longer the neutrality of America was intimated to the Minister of that country at Paris—a circumstance which, reaching America very fortunately before our Orders in Council, may serve to mitigate the resentment with which the latter must otherwise be received. We therefore evidently differ in opinion with France as to the value of this neutrality, which both countries at the same instant had resolved to extinguish. I am decidedly disposed to think the opinion of our enemies the

France are not easily reached by commercial restrictions of any sort. It is a singular fact that with almost the whole of the French effective army abroad, the exchange on Paris is high in every part of Europe. Nothing is contributed from France for the support of this immense force.