

INTRODUCTION.

proof of the British agents instigating the savages to acts of hostility.

The late Gen. Pike in his tour to the head waters of the Mississippi, found several stockade forts erected by the British many leagues south of the boundary line.† Such has been the disregard of Great Britain for our territorial rights. Has she been more respectful to our national flag and maritime privileges?

The French revolution commenced. All Europe was in arms. The wisdom of Washington perceived the true interest of his country. The policy of a strict neutrality was adopted. Although this act displeased France, still it was not respected by England. The proclamation announcing this course of policy was issued on the 22d of April 1793. Yet, on the 8th of June following an order was issued from the cabinet of St. James, requiring "all vessels loaded wholly or in part, with corn, flour or meal, bound to any port in France, or to any port occupied by the armies of France," to be forcibly carried into the ports of Great Britain, and their cargoes were either to be sold there, or security given that they should only be sold in the ports of a country in amity with Great Britain.

This outrage was soon followed by the enforcement of the rule of '56. This preposterous and arbitrary rule ordained that neutral nations were not entitled to enjoy the benefits of a trade with the colonies of a belligerent power, from which in a period of peace they were excluded by the mother country. It was at a period when the American merchants had engaged in a lucrative and extensive trade with the French colonies, that the order

† See Appendix C.