

Grant all that is *assumed*, that Britain is the *tyrant* of the ocean—will the man who subjugated the brave and inoffending Swifs, who annihilated the republick of Italy, to place a diadem on his own brow, who compelled the stubborn Dutchman, our friend and ally,* to receive a master, after 100 years of unexampled resistance to oppression—who has left not one shred of liberty or independence, through the vast, populous, and powerful regions, over which his victorious arms have extended, be delicately or scrupulously regardful of the maritime rights of nations?

Having conquered the continent of Europe, he exclaimed, “all I want are *commerce, colonies and ships*.” Can any virtuous and high-minded freeman of our country believe, that in procuring the gratification of *these* wants, he will be more scrupulous or tender of the rights of *other* nations, than he has been in attaining the vast and immeasurable power which he now possesses?

It may perhaps be thought by *some*, that I have been too free in my censures of the present administration, that I have intimated that they have rather courted, than fought to avoid, the present state of misunderstanding between us and Great-Britain. I confess that if such should be the inference, it would not be an unfair one. I have always been apprehensive, that the marked partiality or dread of France, and the deep-rooted hostility to Great-Britain, which they have invariably discovered, would lead to unpleasant consequences. It is well known, to all men who have noticed the course of our political history, that the persons now administering the government of the United States, have avowed, both before and since they came into power, a settled opposition to Great-Britain.

* Holland has been one of our fastest, firmest friends—the took an early and an honest part in favour of our liberties. Her aid was not, as the French directory say theirs was, the “fruit of a base speculation.” The Dutch love freedom—seventy years war for the attainment of it, had endeared it to them. Who would have imagined that our present administration would have been the first to insult a nation, to whom we were bound by so many ties of gratitude, by congratulating their upstart tyrant on his accession to the throne? Who would have thought that our republican President would have been so eager to address his “dearly beloved brother of Holland?” What would have been said of Washington, if he *had* thus put the seal to tyranny, especially when having no minister at that Court, there could be no necessity of saying anything on the subject? Sed tempora mutantur et nos mutamur cum illis!