

Value of exports from the United States to France and Great-Britain and their colonies, in the year ending with September 1790.

	To France.	Gr. Britain.	Fr. W. I.	Br. W. I.
Flour	392,341	676,274	1,090,854	858,006
Grain	222,872	411,566	77,920	273,505
Tobacco	384,642	2,754,493	43,104	22,816
Rice	156,461	773,852	166,445	180,087
Wood	110,864	240,174	365,175	382,481
Salt Fish	1,106	10	609,106	7,289
Fish Oil	91,298	81,048	14	124
Pot and Pearl-sh.	20,720	747,078	0	0
Salt Meat	14,109	898	304,345	6,659
Indigo	10,867	473,830	1,752	572
Live Stock	35,274	219,924	0	0
Flax-seed	3,290	190,670	0	0
Naval Stores	3,169	81,612	416	6,162
Iron	11,000	0	600	900

The aggregate of exports in this year he made to amount :

Dollars	Dollars
France, 1,393,286	Gr. Brit. 6,651,429
Fr. Ill. 3,031,050	Br. W. I. 1,805,744
Fr. tot. 4,424,336	Br. tot. 8,457,173

From this view of the subject which is favorable to France, for in the year taken, much flour was sent to their Islands, tho' prohibited in ordinary times it yet appears that our exports to France are very little more than half those to the dominions of Great Britain.

He next proceeded to compare the years 1790, '91 and '92—year ending with

Sep.)	Britain	France	Dif. in fav. B.
'90	9,246,606	4,668,902	4,577,704
'91	7,953,418	4,219,752	3,733,666
'92	8,269,495	5,243,543	3,025,922

The average of these three years' exports in favor of Great Britain is 3,752,760.

If a judgment is to be founded on facts, in relation to exports, it will appear that Great Britain is a better customer than France, under her permanent regulations, in the ratio, of two to one.

But the Secretary of State, to do away the force of this undoubted state of facts, says, that a great part of the commodities, Great Britain receives from us she exports to other countries under the disadvantage of charges of intermediary deposit and of double voyage. The Secretary he believed, founded his assertion upon a statement made by Lord Sheffield, prior to our revolution, which is, in the present state of things, surely no standard. Before the revolution, Great Britain had almost the monopoly of our trade; we had but little direct foreign commerce; Great Britain was the intermediary: But since our declaration of independence matters have very materially changed; Great Britain acts no longer in that capacity to such an extent, and our foreign commerce with other nations is extensive. He enlarged upon this part of the subject to shew that Mr. Jefferson's expectation, and that those observations could not not apply in the present state of things.

But even supposing that one third of the articles exported to Great Britain, from this country, were thence exported, (and this he conceived a great proportion indeed) even then Great Britain would be a greater actual consumer than France, by a great difference.

He offered a calculation to shew, that even in this case Great Britain was a greater consumer, upon an average, in the sum of about 2,000,000 of dollars, allowing not a dollars' worth to be re-exported from France.

He made another observation on the remarks of the Secretary, relative to re-exportation. It might not be always the interest of this country to carry her productions to a favorable market if they could not there obtain commodities in exchange and a freight back. In such a state of things it might be more advantageous to have an intermediate market, as England, which in this relation rather tends to extend than abridge our commercial advantages, and is as useful almost

as if she actually consumed that produce. The existence of such a system, not forced, is a proof that it is not injurious.

From this view of the subject there was little weight in the assertion of the Secretary of State in his report, that the quantity of our commodities re-exported by Great Britain is greater than comports with our interest.

But even supposing that Great Britain re-exports one third of the whole of her imports from this country, even then she would still be a greater consumer of our produce than France.

With respect to imports, the great amount of importations from Great Britain is by some considered as a grievance, he conceived it only demonstrates the utility of the trade. The object of the resolutions is to diminish it. If we did this for the encouragement of manufactures here, an object not contemplated by the resolutions, there might be ground for argument in favour of them on this score; but the object avowed is to turn the tide of trade at present enjoyed by one nation in favor of another, and that by subjecting our citizens to an inconvenience.

There are several obvious reasons why our intercourse with Great Britain is so great. Great Britain is the first manufacturing country in the world, and is best able to supply us with an assortment of the articles we want: she also obtains a preference by the length of credit she allows. It is of great advantage, he said, that a country wanting capital as this does should be able to flourish by aid of foreign capital. No circumstance has so much nourished the industry of this country as the use of foreign capital. Our own capital, we have thereby been able to apply to the improvement of ship building, manufactures, and other objects.

France, the advocates for trade with that country, assert, can supply us on better terms than Great Britain. To do this they must not only furnish us with articles of equal quality at a lower price, but must allow us a credit; and it is well known that her merchants either will not or cannot do this.

He should not dwell, he said, upon the deranged state of French manufactures.—It could not be asserted that, though they can furnish some few articles on more advantageous terms than the British, they can offer so great a number and such an assortment. Trade left to regulate itself, will always flow in those channels where its best interests lead.

He should not deny, that it is in a degree disadvantageous to a nation to depend on one nation only, for a supply of the articles she may stand in need of; this dependence is not to be shaken off by artificial methods, and in sacrificing our own interests; we are not to lessen the importation of British manufactures, by high duties, in order to counterbalance the disadvantages other countries may labour under, in their intercourse with us; that is giving a bounty out of our own pockets not for the encouragement of our manufactures, but for those of another country. Such duties would have this effect, by enabling the importers of merchandize from that country, to raise their price, to the level of the price of the dutied articles, and the price of British articles would thereby only be rendered higher.

The very necessity of laying a duty on British manufactures, in order that other manufactures should find a sale among us, is a proof that the first can be afforded more reasonably or suit us better.

The advantage of credit may be cried down by some, who will assert that it is a disadvantage in trade. It might as well be said, that credit is an injury to the young settler of new land, or to the taylor who purchases cloth, to make clothes of. It certainly is one of those good things which are liable to abuse; but it is an excellent substitute for capital, and is an amazing encourager of trade and industry. To the indolent and slothful only, it is pernicious.

He concluded this part of his observations, by recapitulating what he had said, to shew that Great Britain is as good a supplier to this country, as she is a customer.

There was one more view of the subject, he said, as it relates to navigation. Our trade with Great-Britain is as free in our own bottoms, as in theirs, for the transportation of our produce, a few trifling port charges excepted, which is not the case with other nations; in France we enjoy the same advantages granted to the most favored nations, & no more. So far the

comparison is in favor of Great-Britain. In the West-Indies, it is true, a different state of things exists; but the difference, on a more close view, is not so material as it at first appears. Our bottoms are all excluded from the British Islands, except Turk's Island: The French permanent system admits of all our vessels, of 60 tons & upwards; but this advantage she allows to all other nations. It was more material however, he remarked, that our trade in our own bottoms, should be free with Great-Britain in Europe, than in her West-India colonies, as not more than 1-3 of our exports go to the last mentioned quarter.

The effect of the difference in the regulations of the two rival nations, is not so considerable as the Secretary of State represents it, especially as our tonnage is affected. The Secretary states the tonnage we employ in our intercourse with France, at 116,410 tons, and that employed in our commerce with Great-Britain, at 43,580 tons; this account is founded on a mistaken calculation. The Secretary of State is guided by the actual entries of American bottoms, from the dominions of each country, in the year; which, owing to our intercourse with the French West-Indies, whither four voyages may be made in the course of the year, will make our tonnage employed in that quarter, be counted four times, when the tonnage of vessels trading with Europe, will appear but twice in the same period. Thus this mode of calculation is deceptive, and therefore the Secretary of the Treasury was called upon, for an account of the actual state of the tonnage employed in our trade with foreign nations, for one year.

By this account of the actual tonnage, it appears, that France employs no more than 82,510 tons of our tonnage, and Great-Britain 66,582 tons, leaving an excess in favor of France, of not more than 15,928, instead of 72,830, which the Secretary of State makes it. This shews that the report of that gentleman is not grounded upon that accuracy and extent of information, which we might have expected.

He recapitulated, and from what he had shewn believed, he had a right to say, that the commercial system of Great-Britain towards us, far from being hostile, is friendly; that she makes a number of discriminations in our favor, and gives us the preference, in many instances; and that France, only in one solitary instance, the article of fish-oil, not very important, places us in a better situation than her rival does.

If this is a true picture of the existing state of things, and he could not see where it is deficient in truth, then, he asked, is it not time that the deception practised on the people by the oligarchs on the commercial system of France and revilers of that of Great-Britain, should be removed?

If passing from a consideration of the state of facts, a survey of the existing motives is contemplated, he believed there would be found as little room for censure on the one hand, as for eulogy on the other; both nations were probably guided by what they conceived their interest. He made some observations to prove this position, and concluded by a few remarks on the propriety of avoiding, in the discussion of this subject, every political topic, that might be attempted to be connected with it.

*The foregoing is a very contracted and imperfect sketch of the speech of Mr. Smith—a more full and correct account of which is now preparing for the press, and will speedily be published. Short notes of a speech containing such a variety of important matter and numerical statements, must necessarily convey but a very imperfect idea of the facts and inferences.*

[Debate to be continued.]

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled.

The Memorial of the Live Oak and Cedar, and other trees, situate on navigable water, in the United States.

Humbly Sheweth,

That your memorialists the ancient aborigines of the country, have seen with peculiar pleasure, the prosperity and happiness of its citizens, and especially their enlargement from the yoke of foreign thralldom, by the magnanimous declaration of 1776—that in consequence, they had flat-

tered themselves, the day was at length come, when they were to quit their old, erect, and local positions, for the purpose of going on their travels into foreign parts; and of surprizing every sea with the celerity of their operations, and the benefits they were every where intended to confer.

But, that to their great grief, it would seem as if the influence of some foreign trees combined together, and known by the name of the Wooden Walls of Great-Britain, were to defeat the laudable aspirations of your memorialists, in their projected race of glory; and to impede that destination to which God and nature have given them the justest pretensions.

For your memorialists have been reduced to the necessity of seeing some of their neighbors of the forest, cut down, in order to make hoops, staves, and other kind of lumber of, and yet, your memorialists, tho' they had so fair and natural a right, to convey their brethren across the Ocean, to Jamaica, and elsewhere, where use was made of them; yet these foreign trees dared to invade the privileges of your memorialists, they have taken indeed, the staves and lumber, that they indispensably wanted, but have denied to your memorialists, all right of transporting them.

Your memorialists are indeed, sensible of the benefits conferred on them, since the Federal Government was established—Having seen with delight, many noble piles of ships, constructed from their growth, in every part of America, who have done great honor to the United States, and brought them large emoluments; but still they see with pain, and indignation, too many foreign boards, and timbers, yet employed to the great mortification of your memorialists: and which it only wants a little firmness and resolution on your part, utterly to prevent.

Your memorialists therefore entreat you, to take their case into consideration, such of your honorable bodies, as shall advocate their claim; they promise to fan with their choicest breezes in the Summer and Spring ensuing, and to cover with their broad and protecting shade—While laurels and palms, shall adorn their names to very late and distant posterity—as among those who have the best merited of their country—and for their happiness and prosperity your memorialists as in duty bound, will always pray.

Signed by the LIVE OAK,  
the CEDAR,  
the PINE,

And a variety of other valuable, independent trees of the United States.

For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

MR. FENNO,  
You are requested to publish the following Letter in your Gazette, and oblige yours,  
A. C.

ST. LUCIA, October 28, 1793.  
Messrs. John Corlis & Co.

GENTLEMEN,

IT is with pain that I communicate to you the particulars of our voyage—they are such as not only immediately concern yourselves, but are deeply interesting to every American—they are these: When I left Providence, I directed the Captain to proceed for Barbadoes, but falling to the leeward, we on the 30th of September made Martinique—the breeze then favoring, we hauled our wind, and stood for our intended port. The next morning, about 7 leagues to the windward of Martinique, which was still in sight, we fell in with an English privateer, fitted out at Bermuda, called the Experiment, and commanded by a Captain Morgan; they took us as a prize, under the pretence that we had an intention of supplying the French with naval stores, and conveyed us to Barbados, where we arrived the 3d inst. Our papers were laid before the Attorney-General of that Island, who, after detaining us five days, gave his opinion that they could have no claim to us as a prize. Our vessel being again at liberty, I remained at Barbados and sold my cargo; on the 18th we left Barbados, having on board about 2750 dollars in cash, seven puncheons of rum, a few barrels of naval stores, and a few barrels of beef. I intended to have touched at Martinique, in order to have sold my rum, &c. but in running down, we on the 19th, at the windward of this Island, fell in with a French privateer fitted out at Martinique, called La Diligent, commanded by a Capt. Fabru; they came on board of us with naked poignards, and demanded the keys of our chest, which being de-