

to be followed relative to the correspondence and commerce which the two parties desire to establish between their respective countries, states and subjects; His Most Christian Majesty and the said United States have judged that the said end could not be better obtained, than by taking for the basis of their agreement, the most perfect equality and reciprocity, and by carefully avoiding all those burthenome preferences which are usually sources of debate, embarrassment and discontent; by leaving also each party at liberty to make respecting Navigation and Commerce, those interior regulations which it shall find most convenient to itself, and by founding the advantage of commerce solely upon reciprocal utility, and the just rules of free intercourse, reserving withal to each party the liberty of admitting, at its pleasure, other nations to a participation of the same advantages — It is in the spirit of this intention and to fulfil these views, that his said Majesty having named and appointed for his Plenipotentiary, CONRAD ALEXANDER GERARD, Royal Syndic of the city of Strasbourg, Secretary of his Majesty's Council of State; and the United States on their part, having fully empowered BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, Deputy from the State of Pennsylvania to the General Congress, and President to the Convention of said State; SILAS DEANE, late Deputy from the State of Connecticut to the said Congress, and ARTHUR LEE, Counsellor at Law: The said respective Plenipotentiaries, after exchanging their powers, and after mature deliberation, have concluded and agreed upon the following articles.

A R T I C L E I.

THERE shall be a firm, inviolable and universal peace, and a true and sincere friendship between the Most Christian King, his heirs and successors, and the United States of America, and the subjects of the Most Christian King and of the said States, and between the countries, islands, cities and towns situate under the jurisdiction of the Most Christian King, and of the said United States, and the people and inhabitants of every degree, without exception of persons or places, and the terms herein after mentioned, shall be perpetual between the Most Christian King, his heirs and successors, and the said United States.

A R T I C L E II.

THE Most Christian King and the United States engage mutually not to grant any particular favour to other nations, in respect of commerce and navigation, which shall not immediately become common to the other party, who shall enjoy the same favour freely, if the concession was freely made, or on allowing the same compensation, if the concession was conditional.

A R T I C L E III.

THE subjects of the Most Christian King shall pay in the ports, havens, roads, countries, islands, cities or towns of the United States, or any of them, no other or greater duties or imposts, of what nature soever they may be, or by what name soever called, than those which the nations most favoured are or shall be obliged to pay; and they shall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in trade, navigation and commerce, whether in passing from one port in the said States to another, or in going to and from the same, from and to any part of the world, which the said nations do or shall enjoy.

A R T I C L E IV.

THE subjects, people and inhabitants of the said United States, and each of them, shall not pay in the ports, havens, roads, islands, cities and places under the domination of His Most Christian Majesty, in Europe, any other or greater duties or imposts, of what nature soever they may be, or by what name soever called, than those which the most favoured nations are or shall be obliged to pay; and they shall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities, and exemptions in trade, navigation and commerce, whether in passing from one port in the said dominions in Europe, to another, or in going to and from the same, from and to any part of the world, which the said nations do or shall enjoy.

A R T I C L E V.

IN the above exemption is particularly comprized, the imposition of *one hundred Sous per ton*, established in France on foreign ships, unless when the ships of the United States shall load with the merchandize of France, for another port of the same dominion; in which case the said ships shall pay the duty above mentioned, so long as other nations the most favoured shall be obliged to pay it; but it is understood, that the said United States, or any of them, are at liberty, when they shall judge it proper, to establish a duty equivalent in the same case.

A R T I C L E VI.

THE Most Christian King shall endeavour, by all the means in his power, to protect and defend all vessels and the effects belonging to the subjects, people or inhabitants of the said United States, or any of them, being in his ports, havens or roads, or on the seas near to his countries, islands, cities or towns; and to recover and restore to the right owners, their agents or attorneys,