

head, Bonaparte had created much ill feeling in England by making some extraordinary demands from our **Insults to British Government.** government. He proposed that we should expel from our shores the princes of the old royal family of France and certain other refugees, a request for the violation of English hospitality which was naturally refused. He also made an astonishing demand for the suppression of certain English newspapers and pamphlets, wherein his conduct and policy were being discussed with the usual freedom of political papers. When Lord Hawkesbury made the natural reply that in England the press was free, and that it was not our wont to expel foreign exiles who had done nothing against our laws, the First Consul pretended to regard himself as outrageously insulted (August 17, 1802).

His ill-will was notably manifest in the regulations against English trade which he maintained. He utterly refused to sign any commercial treaty, and caused crushing **Hostility to English trade.** duties to be laid on English goods, not only in France, but throughout the territories of her vassal republics. He also sent agents and spies all over Great Britain and the British empire, to discover our exact military and commercial resources. The final outbreak of wrath against him on this side of the Channel was largely caused by the publication of the papers of one of his agents, General Sebastiani, which were filled with elaborate plans for putting the French again in possession of Egypt, and for undermining English trade in the Levant.

It was no wonder that in the winter of 1802-3 the English ministers made up their minds that another war was probably in sight. They resolved to retain a firm hold on **The British ambassador insulted.** Malta, and to delay the surrender of the Cape of Good Hope, Pondicherry, and such other French possessions as had not yet been given back. When Parliament met in March, the prime minister announced that the army and navy, instead of being further reduced, would require certain