

gements on the Part of His Majesty's Enemies. His Desire for Peace induced Him to wait for their Completion, with an Anxiety proportioned to the Importance of the Object; nor was it much to expect that His Minister should at length be informed what was the Extent and Nature of the Conditions on which His Enemies were disposed to terminate the War.

It was in this Stage of the Business that, on the 11th of September, the Appointment of new Plenipotentiaries was announced on the Part of France, under a formal Promise that their Arrival should facilitate and expedite the Work of Peace.

To renew, in a Shape still more offensive than before, the inadmissible Demand so long before brought forward, and so long abandoned, was the first Act of these new Messengers of Peace. And such was now the undisguised Impatience of the King's Enemies to terminate all Treaty, and to exclude all Prospect of Accommodation, that even the Continuance of the King's Plenipotentiary at the appointed Place of Negotiation was made by them to depend on his immediate Compliance with a Condition which his Court had, Two Months before; explicitly refused, and concerning which no farther Discussion had since occurred. His Reply was such as the Occasion required: and he immediately received a positive and written Order to depart from France.

The subsequent Conduct of His Majesty's Enemies has aggravated even this Proceeding, and added fresh Insult to this unexampled Outrage. The insurmountable Obstacles which they threw in the Way of Peace were accompanied with an ostentatious Profession of the most pacific Dispositions. In cutting off the Means of Negotiation they still pretended to retain the strongest Desire to negotiate: In ordering the King's Minister to quit their Country, they professed the Hope of his immediate Return to it: And in renewing their former inadmissible and rejected Demand, they declared their confident Expectation of a speedy and favourable Answer. Yet before any Answer could arrive; they published a Declaration, announcing to their Country the Departure of the King's Minister, and attempting; as in every former Instance, to ascribe to the Conduct of Great Britain the Disappointment of the general Wish for Peace, and the Renewal of all the Calamities of War. The same Attempt has been prolonged in subsequent Communications, equally insidious and illusory, by which they have obviously intended to furnish the Colour and empty Pretence of a Wish for Peace, while they have still studiously and obstinately persisted in evading every Step which could lead to the

Success of any Negotiation; have continued to insist on the same inadmissible and extravagant Preliminary, and have uniformly withheld all Explanation either on the Particulars of the Proposals of Peace, so long since delivered by His Majesty's Minister, or on any other Terms on which they were themselves ready to conclude: And this in the vain Hope, that it could be possible by any Artifice to disguise the Truth of these Transactions, or that any Exercise of Power, however despotic, could prevent such Facts from being known, felt, and understood, even in France itself.

To France, to Europe, and to the World, it must be manifest, that the French Government (while they persist in their present Sentiments) leave His Majesty without an Alternative, unless He were prepared to surrender and sacrifice to the undisguised Ambition of His Enemies the Honour of His Crown and the Safety of His Dominions. It must be manifest, that, instead of shewing, on their Part, any Inclination to meet His Majesty's pacific Overtures on any moderate Terms, they have never brought themselves to state any Terms (however exorbitant) on which they were ready to conclude Peace: They have asked as a Preliminary (and in the Form the most arrogant and offensive) Concessions which the comparative Situation of the Two Countries would have rendered extravagant in any Stage of Negotiation; which were directly contrary to their own repeated Professions; and which, nevertheless, they peremptorily required to be complied with in the very Outset: reserving an unlimited Power of afterwards accumulating, from Time to Time, fresh Demands, increasing in Proportion to every new Concession.

On the other Hand, the Terms proposed by His Majesty have been stated in the most clear, open, and unequivocal Manner. The Discussion of all the Points to which they relate, or of any others, which the Enemy might bring forward as the Terms of Peace, has been, on His Majesty's Part, repeatedly called for, as often promised by the French Plenipotentiaries, but to this Day has never yet been obtained. The Rupture of the Negotiation is not therefore to be ascribed to any Pretensions (however inadmissible) urged as the Price of Peace; not to any ultimate Difference on Terms, however exorbitant; but to the evident and fixed Determination of the Enemy to prolong the Contest, and to pursue, at all Hazards, their hostile Designs against the Prosperity and Safety of these Kingdoms.

While this Determination continues to prevail; His Majesty's earnest Wishes and Endeavours to restore Peace to His Subjects must be fruitless: But