

missing to the happy execution of his mission, than were the affairs of that country. The influence of the court of St. James's over a certain set of men, the interest that many had in the funds and commerce of England, and the dread of her power, which generally prevailed throughout the provinces, obliged him to act with the utmost circumspection. Unknown, and at first unnoticed (at least but by a few) he had nothing to do but to examine into the state of things, and characters of the leading men. This necessary knowledge was scarcely acquired, when the conduct of the British Ministry afforded him an opportunity of shewing himself more openly. The contempt, insult and violence with which the whole Belgic nation was treated, gave him great advantages over the English ambassador at the Hague. He served himself of his rival's rashness and folly with great coolness and ability; and, by consequence, became so particularly obnoxious to the prevailing party, that it was somewhat dangerous for him to go to a village scarcely a day's journey from his residence, but with the utmost secrecy: the fate of Dorislar was before his eyes. Having been therefore under the necessity of residing at Amsterdam, for protection against the malice of the times, he soon gained the good opinion of the magistrates by his prudent conduct as a private citizen. The bad policy of England, enabled him to step forward as a public character. As such, he presented to the States General his famous memorial, dated the 19th of April, 1781, wherein the declaration of the independency of America on the 4th of July 1776, was justified; the unalterable resolution of the United States to abide thereby asserted; the interest that all the powers of Europe, and particularly the States General, have in maintaining it, proved; the political and natural grounds of a commercial connection between the two republics pointed out; and information given that the memorialist was invested with full powers from Congress to treat with their High Mightinesses for the good of both countries.

The presenting this memorial was a delicate step; Mr. Adams was sensible, that he alone was answerable for the consequences, it being taken not merely from his own single suggestion, but contrary to the opinion and advice of some of great weight and authority. However, maturely considering the measure, he saw it in all its lights, and boldly ventured on the undertaking. The full and immediate effect of it was not expected at once. The first object was, that the nation should consider the matter thoroughly; it being evident, that the more it was ruminated on, the more obvious would be the advantages and necessity of a connexion between the two countries. When, therefore, the Memorial was taken by the States General *ad referendum*, the first point was gained; the people thought of, and reasoned on the matter set before them; many excellent writings appeared, and they made the greatest impression; a weekly paper in particular, entitled *Le Politique Hollandois*, drew the attention of all, on account of its information, the soundness of its argument, and its political judgment and patriotism. At length, the time came when the work was to be completed: the generality of the people of Holland, seeing the necessity of opening a new course to their trade, which the violent aggression of England, and the commercial spirit of other nations tended to diminish, demanded an immediate connection with the United States of America, as a means of indemnifying themselves for the loss which a declared enemy had brought on them, and the rivalry of neighbouring nations might produce.

Mr.