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agents, fell upon the frontiers of the colonies. The former, not finding themselves supported, suddenly stopped short; but the latter, for some time carried desolation and ruin through their neighbourhood; totally destroying the settlements, and murdering all those who came in their way. They were soon checked, however, and made to repent their folly. They were defeated in every action, and pursued by the militia of Virginia and Carolina into their own country. There the Indian towns were demolished, their corn destroyed, and their warriors thinned in repeated engagements; until the whole nation was nearly exterminated, and the wretched survivors were obliged to submit to such terms as the victors thought fit to prescribe.

Such was the state of affairs at the close of the year 1776; from which we may see how little was that year actually effected towards the conquest of America. That the Americans themselves thought so indeed, we have a convincing proof, since, on the 4th of October this year, even when their affairs seemed in the most desperate situation, they entered into a treaty of perpetual compact and union among themselves, and laid down an invariable system of laws for their government, in all public cases, with respect either to peace or war, and to their commerce with other states.

In 1777, nothing happened between Sir William Howe and Washington, except some inconsiderable skirmishes, till the grand expedition against Philadelphia was set on foot. This expedition spread the greatest alarm throughout the continent; and General Washington used his utmost efforts to defend that important place. Notwithstanding the successes of the British army last year, they now found it impossible to attack Philadelphia by the way of the Jerseys. There was, therefore, a necessity for the embarkation of the troops, in order to their reaching the place of their destination. When they had reached the Capes of Delaware, they there received such infor-