

whenever Great Britain should be disposed to it. (Nov. 23, 1781.)

And these last notices having * come to your Majesty's Memorialist (as he did † immediately communicate to your Majesty's Ministers) he, an old servant of the Crown in this line of American service, practised and experienced in these affairs, presumes to obtrude himself into your Majesty's presence, and to lay at your feet the following memorial, as the last and only effort which Providence hath left in his power, of doing his duty to your Majesty and to his country.

If it were certain that a congress of all the Powers concerned in the present war, held under the mediation of the high Powers who have proposed the same, would be productive of peace; yet no such congress can meet until the several parties, amongst whom parts of this great business form more particular relations, shall mutually amongst themselves settle some preliminary articles, as to the manner in which they will meet, and as to the points in which they will (as our law-proceedings phrase it) join issue on the matters to be discussed. Until some

* December 5, 1781. † December 6, 1781.