

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,