

consent of the parties. There is therefore no way left to effect an *union of force* between the two countries, consistent with the solemn surrender to America of the rights of the purse and of the sword, but upon the principles of federal alliance.

If I could have had my choice of all the arguments in the world, to support the proposition of giving an offer of peace to America, upon the condition of the *eventual* treaty of alliance between France and America being relinquished, I would have taken those very arguments, from the letter of the Commissioners just now cited. The Commissioners have, to every substantial effect, fully acknowledged the independence of America. The proposition, therefore, which I have stated, is only supplementary to this, viz. If America is to become substantially independent of Great-Britain, let them be independent of France and of all the world. Agreed, say the Commissioners, if we can but settle this point of the *union of force*; and all that we require is, "that the extent of "our future *connection* should be determined upon the principles "of *mere reason*, and considerations of *mutual interest*, on which "we are likewise willing to rest the *permanence* of any arrangements we may form." The answer then is shortly this: If America, as the condition of peace, can prevail with the court of France to relinquish the *eventual* treaty of alliance, they will then be free to act as the principles of *mere reason*, and as the considerations of *mutual interest* shall guide them, which is all that the parliamentary commissioners require. The commissioners have, in the most argumentative and explicit manner, abdicated every other claim, and rest all the future *connection* with America, and the *permanence* of any such future *connection*, upon the considerations of *mere reason* and *mutual interest*.

What then have we left to fight for? Every national interest, and all parliamentary claims, have been relinquished by ministers long ago. Even that stumbling-block of independence is now swept away. Ministers do not contend, on the part of their country, for any future claim of rights over America. The utmost *extent* now proposed by them for any future *connection* with America, is to be determined upon principles of *mere reason* and considerations of *mutual interest*. If these are their real principles, why have they not, and why do they not proceed upon the broad