

friendly allies. I rejoice however in their separation ; they had become an intolerable burthen to the British nation ; they drew the attention of the government from internal improvements (of infinitely more utility) to the fostering of insidious colonies ; and since this excrescence has been cut off, the British isles have advanced most rapidly in strength and prosperity. No Englishman has cause to blush on account of this war ;* it was excited by faction, and became successful through treachery.

But the most unfortunate event of the present reign is of a more general and destructive tendency, and is common to England with all Europe. The revolution in France has been the scourge of the world since its commencement. This dreadful convulsion was accelerated, if not entirely produced, by the rebellion in America. The discussions to which this singular contest gave rise, and the countenance granted by Louis XVI. to subjects in arms against their lawful sovereign, erased from the minds of a great portion of his people that reverence and devotion for royalty, with which they were formerly inspired. These impressions were extended and confirmed on the return of the troops which had been sent to America. The gifts of freedom were painted in the most fascinating colours ; the flame of blind enthusiasm was kindled in their breasts, and a desire for liberty excited which nothing could extinguish. Indeed the king of France signed his death warrant† and the ruin of his race when he signed the

* See NOTES VII. and VIII. † See NOTE IX.