

AMERICAN ENCROACHMENTS

ON

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THE connexion which had so long subsisted between Great Britain and the countries now forming the United States of America, having been finally dissolved, by the acknowledgment of their Independence in 1783, the commercial system arising out of that connexion, of course, ended with it; and the laws, by which the trade of these countries, considered as colonies, had hitherto been regulated, ceased to have effect; it was therefore necessary, not only to define and limit, by treaty, the boundaries of those parts of the United States which were contiguous to the remaining British Provinces in America, but also to adopt new principles, on which a system of commerce between the two nations might be founded.

Considerable difficulties occurred in the arrangement of the limits of the United States, which were afterwards settled by the treaty of 1783. The commercial regulations between the two countries were never permanently established, and the trade between Great Britain and the United States was regulated and carried on, from the year 1783, under the powers given by the 23d Geo. 3d. chap. 39, and by the 24th Geo. 3d. chap. 45, by orders in council, until the act of the 37th Geo. 3d. chap. 97, which passed 4th July 1797.

Scarcely had the American war terminated, when Great Britain and the United States charged each other with having violated the treaty of peace. On the construction of several articles of that