

“ war, and hath prolonged and extended the miseries of mankind : we ardently wish
 “ to sheathe the sword and spare the farther effusions of blood ; *but* we are determined
 “ by every means in our power, to fulfil those *eventual engagements* which have acquired
 “ positive and permanent force.” They acknowledge that the *eventual engagements*
 are become *positive* and *permanent*, but upon the terms *immediate* and *indissoluble*,
 they are silent ; they neither exult in the one, nor declare their assent to the other. If any
 one does not see in these features, the secret tokens of kindness and remaining regret, (*ve-*
teris vestigia flammæ) I think it must be owing either to dullness of apprehension, or to
 unfeelingness of heart.

I will now enumerate a few plain propositions, of which I hope that I have given suf-
 ficient proof : first, that the people of Great Britain and America are well disposed to-
 wards each other, and towards national reconciliation ; Secondly, that the conduct of
 America in the negotiation of the *eventual* alliance, carries evident marks of reluctance
 corresponding to that limited obligation, which they acknowledge as due to France, for
 having assisted them in the campaign subsequent to the convention of Saratoga ; making
 abatement, for the coldness and ineffectuality of their professions, during the campaign of 1777,
 when their affairs were at the severest trial. Thirdly, that America is desirous of peace,
 or to use their own words in their answer to Mons. Gerard, *ardently wishing to sheathe*
the sword and to spare the farther effusion of blood. In correspondence with this wish
 of America for peace, Mons. Gerard declares, on the part of his court, in his address to
 the Congress, that the procuring peace to America is the *object of the alliance.* Upon
 these grounds, I think, without any deep refinement or research, one simple proposition offers
 itself, which is, To withdraw the British fleets and armies from America, and to make an
 offer of peace to America, upon this condition, That the *eventual* treaty of alliance shall be
 relinquished on the part of France. Who will make any objection ? Not America !
 For if independence and peace be their objects, it can be no grievance to them, to be eman-
 cipated from any dependence upon France, and to be released from that *eventual* treaty into
 which they have entered with so much apparent reluctance. Will France object ? In their
 hearts I believe they will, but I think they will be at a loss for some specious pretext.
 Will they say to their new allies, whom they treated with coldness and neglect till after the
 convention of Saratoga, “ We know that you *ardently wish to sheathe the sword, and*
 “ *to spare the farther effusion of blood,* but we refuse the condition required on our part
 “ for the establishment of your peace, although our minister has declared in our name
 “ to Congress, that your repose and peace were *the objects of that alliance* ; you have in-
 “ curred the penalty of the bond, and we will not relax. We are fresh for the contest
 “ of war. You have endured much. Let the British Ministry continue their ravages
 “ of fire and sword throughout your country, if it be their option, as no doubt it will
 “ be. *Eventual* engagements are become *positive* and *permanent*, and they shall remain
 “ *indissoluble.*” If that should be the language from France to America, let it work.