

1775.

other, were drawn up by the General Congress, and by them transmitted to the different colonies, for the inspection and consideration of their respective assemblies. As these Articles of Confederation, &c. were the only out-lines by which the general movements and operations of the different colonies in future were regulated, and as they may serve in a great measure to shew the general sense and spirit of these times, we have given them at large, with many other interesting Papers, necessary to elucidate this Part in the Appendix.

The people, however, were not yet sufficiently irritated, nor their affections and prejudices sufficiently broken, to accede to a Confederacy, which though conditionally framed and worded, yet led to a total separation from the mother country. For tho' they took up arms and opposed government, still, it was in general, under the hope of obtaining thereby a redress of grievances; and that being the nearer and more agreeable object, they would not willingly look to any thing further, especially to one so dreadful as a total separation. It required a longer time in the contemplation of real or supposed injuries, and in speculations upon future, together with fresh and constant sources of irritation, to arrive at that habit of vexation and hatred, which was necessary to break ties of so long a standing, and to familiarize so new an idea.

Commer-
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prohibi-
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respect to
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A resolution was also passed by the Congress at the appearance of autumn, that as America was blessed with a most plentiful harvest, and should have a great superfluity to spare for other nations, so if the late restraining laws were not repealed, within six months from the 20th of July, on which they commenced, the custom-houses should be every where shut up, and their ports from thenceforth be open to every state in Europe, (which would admit and protect their commerce) free of all duties, and
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