

NOTICES OF THE WAR OF 1812.

CHAPTER I.

Causes of the War.—Declaration of War by the United States.—
Opposition to the measure.—Its character and effects.

THE Treaty of Paris of 1783, by which Great Britain acknowledged "the freedom, sovereignty, and independence of the United States," was, on the part of the former, virtually a truce, not a pacification; a temporary and reluctant sacrifice of national pride to national interest; not a frank and honest adjustment of differences, seeking no cause, nor indulging any disposition, to renew the controversy. Indeed, so little careful was this power to conceal, or even to dissemble her temper and policy on this subject, that the first American minister accredited to her court, had scarcely passed the threshold of the palace, when he discovered, that a spirit of unextinguished animosity towards the United States, pervaded alike her councils and her conduct.¹ Nor was it the effect of longer residence, or more intimate acquaintance, to modify, much less to efface this first impression. Every overture on

¹ Appendix, No. 1.