

secured by obtaining the good will of that nation: and therefore the principles of a federal alliance, founded upon mutual affection, common interest, and common consent, must be the only solid basis for an *union of force*. Mutual affection and common interests will bind two nations together, to every effect of an *union of force*, whether they be independent of each other, or one of them dependent upon the other. Observe the course of the reasoning on the part of the commissioners. They say to America, in a letter to Congress, dated July 13, 1778, "We are not inclined "to dispute with you about the meaning of words, but so far as "you mean the *entire privilege* of the people of North-America "to dispose of their property, and to govern themselves without "any reference to Great-Britain, *beyond what is necessary to pre- "serve that union of force*, in which our mutual safety and advantage consists, we think so far their *independence is fully acknowledged* in the terms of our letter of the tenth of June." The passage thus alluded to in the letter from the Commissioners to the Congress of the tenth of June, is their offer "to establish the "power of the respective legislatures in each particular state, to "settle its *revenue*, its civil and *military establishments, &c.*" The Commissioners, after this, proceed to state argumentatively the grounds and principles upon which this *union of force* is to be established. "In the mean time, we assure you, that no circumstance will give us more satisfaction, than to find that the *extent* "of our future *connection*, is to be determined on principles of "mere *reason*, and considerations of *mutual interest*, on which we "are likewise willing to rest the *permanence* of any arrangements "which we may form." If I can understand any course of reasoning, this amounts to a virtual abdication of American dependence, and reduces the whole point to the principles of a federal alliance. The force of a nation is the command of its men and money. The British Commissioners have fully acknowledged the independence of America over their *revenue* and *military establishments*, which are the only branches conspiring to any *union of force*, therefore they have given up the article of independence, as far as relates to an *union of force*. By that cession they have cut off all the claims of this country over the common force, except what shall arise from the common interest and common consent