

sured by the inhabitants that he had nothing to fear from them, he returned and informed his friends. For their greater security, he proposed a general league with the other Indian nations, from Florida to Canada: and ambassadors were immediately sent to make proposals, which were unanimously agreed to.

Effectually to support these measures, Bowles, with all the money that he had taken from the Spaniards, set out for St. Augustine, and from thence he proceeded to Providence. On his return in 1787, how great was his astonishment, when he was informed that the Spaniards had, during his absence, treated with the Creek chiefs, among whom they had distributed some silver medals, on their engaging to wage war against the Georgians, and had already supplied them with arms and ammunition! He easily made appear to them the consequences of their conduct; and on his entreaty they sent back the medals to the governor, whose hatred for Bowles increased in proportion to the supposed affront.

The war between England and Spain, which was on the point of breaking out, not yet having taken place, and the Georgians remaining in a state of inaction, Bowles seized this opportunity to put his long-planned project into execution; which was to declare the ports of Apalachicola, Oakwelakre, and Tampé, free to all commercial nations.

To ensure success to this design, he sent seven hundred warriors to Apalachicola and Tampé, and went himself to Oakwelakre, where some Spanish emissaries endeavoured to assassinate him; but the attempt only occasioned an attack on the Apaloches, a small Spanish post in Florida, and which he laid under contribution. Thus did this great man employ all his faculties to discipline, instruct, and civilize a numerous and brave people, which would soon have ranked among civilized nations, if the base jealousy of Spain had not counteracted his generous designs. Bowles became so odious to Spain, that she resolved to destroy him at any price.

Two Spanish officers, named Hevia and Rousseau, undertook to dishonour themselves in the sight of the whole world, by seconding the government in the disgraceful measures which were resolved upon. These two men were sent to him with a letter from the governor of Louisiana, who said, that he had orders from his government, to treat with him on the disputes subsisting between the Creek Indians and the court of Spain; and that, in order to facilitate the negociation, he had sent a ship with two officers appointed to conduct him to New Orleans, where he would experience every civility, and be treated with the attention he justly merited. On these assurances, he departed for New Orleans, and waited upon the governor, who