

to recruit his force by voluntary enlistment, and that the abolition of paper money, the length of the war, the arrears of debt, and the slender thread by which public credit hung, made it totally out of their power to make any further great exertions.

It must also be remembered that the American Commissioners were of the opinion that "England should make a voluntary offer of Canada." They asserted that "by the Treaty of Paris of 1763, Canada was expressly and irrevocably ceded by France to the King of Great Britain, and that the United States are in consequence of the revolution in their Government entitled to the benefits of that cession." They claimed that England should offer reparation for the towns and villages which had been burned by her troops and her Indian allies, amounting to half a million pounds sterling. In addition, they demanded free trade in England and Ireland, and full freedom of fishing in British waters.

I am never done saying that decisions must be estimated in view of all the circumstances under which they were arrived at, though it is no great feat in criticism to protest that, even