

rienced troops; and we most deeply lament that these calamities should be aggravated by mortifying reflections, that the fame of the British arms may appear to be diminished by the failure of the latest military enterprizes of the war. That it affords us, however, consolation to find, that peace is at length re-established; and to assure his royal highness, that it is the earnest wish and desire of this house to cultivate and maintain the most cordial and intimate union with the government and people of the United States.

“That we rely upon his royal highness’ wisdom and goodness to cherish and preserve the most friendly relations between them and his majesty’s subjects; and we confidently trust, that a corresponding disposition in the government and the people of the United States, will enable his royal highness to continue unimpaired, and undisturbed, the harmony now so happily restored between them; and that the two freest nations in the world may exhibit to mankind the grateful spectacle of mutual confidence and lasting peace.”

The experience of the war has taught us many useful lessons, which it is to be hoped our statesmen will not suffer to pass without profit. We have learnt that a large and efficient revenue, not vulnerable from abroad, is essential to its successful conduct; and that a dependence on loans for the extra expenses of war is fatal and ruinous.

We have learnt that a navy is not only the best and cheapest, but the only effectual defence against the invasion of a coast so extensive as that of the United States; that a navy is peculiarly suited to the genius of our country; and, that, as it cannot possibly endanger our republican institutions, its size ought to keep pace with our means of supporting it.

We have also seen the advantages and defects of our militia system; and the necessity that exists for more clearly determining the powers of the general government on this and on other important questions. It is to be hoped that the present period of unexampled harmony will not be suffered to pass unimproved.*

* By the articles of confederation, the states appointed the regimental officers, the general government the field and general officers. Is there any solid objections to this plan?