

ment was entered into to have a "Christian, universal and perpetual peace," which, of course, everyone understands, might be ended for great national reasons, but it goes on solemnly to engage that no assistance should be given, *directly or indirectly, to those who would cause any prejudice to either of the high contracting parties.* How far was this solemn engagement fulfilled in this secret plotting? Were the awful scenes of the Revolution and the Terror a logical punishment for such treachery on the part of France? Was the loss of a large portion of her American possessions, stripped from her by the very power she had helped to create, a fitting reward for Spain's complicity in this nefarious transaction?

The acquisition of the arms, clothing, ammunition and other necessities was not a work of much difficulty, favoured as it was by the French Ministry, but the shipment of such an amount of material and of French officers who had been engaged by the connivance of Government seemed to be an almost impossible task. For the King was opposed to war, his Ministry was not prepared for it and yet were they openly to engage in such a transaction as Beaumarchais had in hand, it would have been equivalent to a declaration of war on Great Britain. It is not necessary to enter into details. These may be found given, among other works, in lives of Beaumarchais, and in Silas Deane's defence before Congress of his conduct when accused by Arthur Lee of what was practically malfeasance of office. It is sufficient to say that the stores arrived in time for the campaign of 1777 and with them many able officers to assist in drilling and rendering effective the raw levies then at the disposal of Congress.

It was not the direct assistance only of France and Spain that helped the revolted colonies. The co-operation of many of the Indians was secured, not out of love to the Americans, whom they hated, but from the old alliance with the French. La Balme, a French mercenary and a man of great ability, who was employed by Congress to raise and discipline troops for its service, was killed in a skirmish and his papers captured. In one of his letters to de la Luzerne, the French Minister at Philadelphia, dated on the 27th June, 1780, he says: (I translate.) "Except the commander at Fort Pitt, all the Americans were guilty of revolting proceedings towards the Indians.

"Whilst the treaty of peace with them was in progress at the Fort, a party of eight men went to their village and massacred some of them; others stole horses from the Indian camps. From all these rascalities and perfidies results a great store of hatred, causing the wars of which many families have been the victims, the consequence of the disorders and selfishness which mark the conduct of the settlers." He then describes the difficulty he had in securing the help of the Indians, which was only obtained by impassioned appeals to the old bond that united them and the French, who were now, he assured them, associated with the Americans to destroy the British and drive them out of the country.

The successive steps in the Revolutionary war after the open declaration by France in favour of the Colonies need not be here spoken of; these are matters of ordinary history, but the unsuccessful attempts of Beaumarchais to obtain payment for the enormous sums he and his friends had expended for assistance rendered to the revolted Colonies is less known. A mere glance at these is all that is possible in the available space, almost a volume would be required to give a full account of his ineffectual struggles to obtain a settlement. Theodore Winthrop, an enthusiastic American, who on the 19th of April, 1861, gave his life for the cause of the North against the South whilst reanimating his dispirited men, cannot be called a prejudiced witness against his countrymen. In one of his works he says, speaking of men whom he describes as of more than ordinary qualities: "My three guests," he says, "took the American view of history; that, give the world results, the means by which those results were attained cease to be of value or interest." The treatment of Beaumarchais was this view carried to its legitimate conclusion. Every demand was met with the answer that the accounts must be examined on behalf of the United States. They were repeatedly examined and large balances declared to be due Beaumarchais. After the lapse of nine years, during which the accounts remained unpaid, he again asked for a reference, on his part offering M. de Vergennes, the King's minister who knew all the facts, and accepting whoever the Americans should offer, except Arthur Lee, his personal enemy. In 1787, eleven years after the first supplies were sent, and which