

country to an *actual* alliance ; but they transmitted to America a treaty *purely eventual* which was to receive positive and permanent force, upon the continuation of hostile measures and designs, on the part of the British ministry towards America. It is therefore the British Ministry again, who have given the ratification of force and effect, to this *eventual* treaty of alliance, while the Americans seem, on the other hand, to have been reluctant, to the very last moment, to shut the door to reconciliation.

It is no secret, that the court of France have acted a cold and unfriendly part towards the Americans, till they had, by their own exertions established their own cause. There are three millions of people in America as fully convinced of that proposition, as the commissioners themselves, who call the interposition of France insidious. The same three millions of people are equally convinced, that there is no other unsurmountable obstacle to a national reconciliation with Great Britain, but the fatal interposition of a British Ministry, more insidious than the court of France: and, I am confident, that of all the millions of people throughout the French dominions, without excepting the Minister himself who signed the *eventual* treaty, there is no one who is unapprized or unconvinced of these truths. It is folly to suppose, that recent, reluctant and self-interested obligations, on the part of France, should take full and instantaneous possession, of the hearts and affections of three millions of people in America, to the exclusion even of regret upon the loss of ancient hereditary connections and fraternal consanguinity. But there is no road left open for a pacific interview which might lead to reconciliation. There is a British Ministry possessing every avenue, and interposing fire and sword. The catalogue of obligations from the court of France towards America is yet but recent, and little more than a blank. It is the British Ministry who, by every thought, word and act, are labouring to fill up the blanks of that catalogue. It was the continuation of the war against America, after the offer of the conciliatory bills, which first gave force and effect to the *eventual* alliance with France ; and therefore it is the farther prosecution of the same hostile and vindictive measures on the part of the Ministers of this country, which alone can drive America still closer into the arms of France, and cement that alliance for ever.

In the whole conduct of America, there is universally the mark of reluctant necessity. If an alliance with France had been their original choice and preference, they need not have concluded an *eventual* treaty. Observe another incident upon the arrival of this *eventual* treaty in America, which cursorily may appear *a trifle light as air* ; yet, to my judgment, it bears the mark of deep impression—Monsr. Gerard, who attended on the part of his own court, as the anxious candidate for this *eventual* alliance, introduces it in terms denoting his triumphant satisfaction : “ The connections formed by the king
“ my master, with the United States of America, is so agreeable to him, that he could
“ no longer delay sending me to reside among you, for the purpose of cementing those
“ *eventual engagements* which have acquired *immediate*, positive, permanent and *indissoluble*
“ force.”—The Congress return their answer in terms of firmness and constancy, but not of triumph—“ We lament that lust of domination which gave birth to the present
war,