

xiv INTRODUCTION.

and tremendous Precipice; too much Ex-
pence makes us Bankrupts, too little makes
us Slaves. Some Years ago, the *French* were
by no Means a Match for the five Nations;
now, they have a Communication, by a Range
of Forts, from the River *St. Laurence* in *Ca-*
nada, to the *Ohio* near the *Mississippi*. Hence
it is, that they hold our Colonies between the
two Ends of a Net, which if they tighten by
Degrees, they may get all of them into the
Body of it, and then drown them in the Sea.
When the Ship is sinking, the Man at the
Helm in vain lays the Blame upon the La-
bourer at the Oar, or the Labourer at the
Oar recriminates upon the Man at the Helm;
we are all in one Vessel; it is our Interest,
as well as our Duty, to unite heartily in the
common Cause; and, laying aside private
Ambition and Animosity, to act with Ala-
cridy and Confidence; and to perform every
Thing in our Power, for the Preservation,
Honour, and Happiness of our Country."

This was the fatal Spark, which kindled
the Flame of War in every Quarter of the
World; and which afterwards raged (parti-
cularly in *Europe*) with a destructive and un-
relenting Fury, beyond the Example of for-
mer Times. *France* and *Austria*, to whom
Francis the first and *Charles* the fifth had left
a Kind of hereditary Antipathy, mutually ran
into each other's Arms. *Great Britain* was
put under the disagreeable Necessity of ex-
pending