

A. D.
1756.

British fleet, in contempt of the laws of nations and the faith of treaties, began to commit the most violent hostilities against the ships of his Majesty, and the navigation and commerce of his subjects.

The King, justly offended by this perfidious conduct, and the many insults that were offered to his flag, would not have suspended his resentment, and withheld what he owes to the dignity of his crown for eight months, if he had not been unwilling to expose Europe to the calamities of a new war. It was upon this salutary principle, that France behaved with the utmost moderation, during the most injurious proceedings of England.

While the British fleet, sometimes by the basest artifices, and sometimes by the most outrageous violence, were seizing the vessels of France, which were sailing without suspicion of danger, under the common safeguard of public faith, his Majesty sent back to England a frigate which had been seized by the French fleet, and suffered the British merchantmen to continue trading without interruption in the ports of France.

While the French soldiers and sailors, captives in the British islands at a time of peace, were treated with a severity by which the bounds that the laws of nature and the common principles of humanity have set to the rights of war, were exceeded, the English lived and traded without molestation in France, under the protection of that
reci-