

that our imaginations could suggest. If wishes therefore could prevail, the independance of Spain was an object most devoutly to be wished. For such an object, all men will readily agree, that we were bound both in wisdom and in honour, to make all such efforts and sacrifices as were really likely in any sober judgment to contribute to its success. By this test alone of the reasonableness of their plan, and the practicability of their execution, our exertions should be tried. To this standard our system of policy must ultimately be referred. If our treasure has been expended, our armies risked, our domestic safety exposed to the utmost hazard, in attempts wisely planned and consistently executed, where success was probable, and failure of no dangerous importance, we may lament the result, but we cannot condemn the councils which have produced it. My own persuasion is, on the contrary, that the resources