

that Britain is not able to defend that distant country. She had now nothing to do but renounce her treaty with Russia, and buy off an evil which she could not repel. This produced the treaty with Prussia.

When the treaties which had been concluded with Russia and Hesse-Cassel were made public in Britain they were received in a very disagreeable manner. The new continental system was inveighed against by the people, and strong opposition was preparing to be made to it in parliament; even some of the ministers who were at the head of the finances, refused to answer the first draught for money, which came over from Russia, till the treaty had been approved by parliament, because it could not be called value received, the Russian troops having not yet done any sort of service; neither did they apprehend it was consistent with the act of settlement.

The parliament met in November, when it appeared that there were a strange jumble of parties in both houses, as well as in the ministry. The king ordered the two late treaties to be laid before them; Mr. Pitt and his adherents, declared against the continental system; Mr. Legge, chancellor of the exchequer, declared upon the same cause, and was therefore succeeded in his employments by Sir George Littleton. The honourable Charles Townshend, and many others of superior rank appeared on the same side of the question; Sir Thomas Robison, who had been secretary of state some time, a well meaning man, and a particular favourite with the king, was opposed by the whole weight and interest of Mr. Pitt, paymaster-general, and Mr. Fox, secretary at war. It was generally believed that the public business could not go on, if another secretary was not appointed; because Mr. Pitt. and Mr. Fox, tho' they agreed in nothing else, they united in opposing his measures; their abilities, tho' of opposite kinds, were universally acknowledged to be great, and by their being superior influence in the house of commons, they had several times opposed Sir Thomas with success. It is a thing extremely uncommon in Britain, especially in these modern days, to see two gentlemen, who hold considerable places under the government, opposing upon every occasion,

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