

before the rumour of them could reach our climates. Her warlike operations would be conducted with an energy peculiar to new societies. She might chuse her enemy, the field, and the moment of her victories. Her thunder would always discharge itself on coasts where it was least expected, on seas but feebly guarded by distant states. Those countries, for the defence of which forces were sent over, would be conquered before they could be succoured. They could neither be recovered by treaties without great sacrifices, nor prevented from falling again under that yoke from which an enfeebled hand had delivered them. The colonies of our absolute monarchies would hasten, perhaps, to acknowledge a master, who could offer them no condition so vexatious as that of their own government; or else, animated by the example of the English provinces, they would break the chain which fastens them so shamefully to Europe.

Let nothing then induce the rival nations of England to precipitate by their secret counsels, or by clandestine succours, a revolution which can only deliver them from a neighbouring enemy, by giving them at a distance one much more formidable. Why accelerate an event which must one day fall out from the inevitable concurrence of so many others? for it would be against the nature of things, that provinces subordinate to the dominant nation should remain under her empire, after they have risen to an equality in population and in opulence. Thus every thing conspires to that great dismembering, the precise moment of which it is not given us to foresee. Every thing leads to it, the progress of good in the new hemisphere, and the progress of evil in the old.

Alas! the prompt and rapid decline of our morals and our strength, the crimes of kings and the calamities of the people, must render even universal that fatal catastrophe which is to disunite one world from the other. The mine is already prepared under the foundations of our