

and acted upon in all maritime wars for more than two centuries past.

It was probably under such impressions as these, that the greater part of the Delegates, chosen at that time to the Congress of the United States, arrived at Philadelphia. It was generally understood that among these, the prepossessions of Mr. HARPER were such as would probably render him one of the most active opponents of the Treaty, signed by Lord Grenville and Mr. Jay, in 1794. It would be too long to enter here into a detail of the motives that actuated different parties in America, which, in 1796, supported or opposed this Treaty, framed with the view of reconciling all subsisting differences, of removing the causes of dispute to which the hasty and inaccurate stipulations of the Treaty of Peace in 1783 had given rise, and of establishing permanent friendship between two countries which have so many natural bonds of union. It is sufficient to observe that Mr. HARPER, being, on examination and full discussion, convinced of the justice and liberality of the principles on which that agreement had been founded, and satisfied with the measures taken for removing the subjects of former dissension, and for preventing future disputes, became one of the most strenuous supporters of the Treaty in the House of Representatives, and vindicated his conduct on that occasion, in an Address to his constituents, which he shortly afterwards published.

The same conviction governed his opinion with regard to the differences subsisting between the United States and France. Many of the causes of complaint on the part of America against