

pany with Great Britain; that she should hoist the British flag, and use the King's name in her courts of justice. . . . He conceived an opinion that when America saw the impossibility of deriving any assistance from France, the Congress would accept of those terms." (Almon, ii, 353). "From the conversation between Lord Shelburne and Mr. Eden it would appear that his (Chatham's) idea was to withdraw the English troops from all the continent of America except a few strongly fortified and easily held positions on the coast, and then to concentrate all the military and naval resources of the country on the struggle with France. He would have repealed at one stroke all the vexatious legislation, which had estranged England from her colonies, and he would then have trusted to these common ties of race, religion and language, on which Shelburne had insisted, to make it possible to come to terms." (FitzMaurice, *Life of Shelburne*, iii, p. 26). Now while we have here the gist of the matter, I question if any plan ever put itself before Pitt quite like that. Everything, as I pointed out in his plan of 1775, always appeared to him through a mist of gorgeous but not disfiguring rhetoric. Let me try to translate these two extracts into the plan of 1778, as I imagine it to have presented itself to his mind.

He would have recalled the fleets and troops from America, and have left the hot fires of civil strife to die down. Meanwhile he would have gathered in his hands, as once before, the resources of England. Heedless of seniority or of party claims, he would have placed the best men at the head of army and navy. He would have breathed into them, as once before, his own unconquerable spirit, so that the commonplace man became a hero, and the hero became invincible. The spirit of Hawke and Wolfe and Clive should have lived again. This restored army and navy he would have hurled, as once before, on the fleets and on the colonies of the House of Bourbon, on France, and if she had made but a sign, on Spain. As once before, he would have torn from them their colonies; from France, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Desirade, Marie Galante, their stations in India and on the Slave Coast; from Spain, Cuba and the Philippines. He would have driven their fleets from the sea, till they were captured or sunk, or skulked obscure and impotent at the head of some remote river or estu-