

mit her to recede from the extended line of boundaries so recently decreed by her Convention after a solemn discussion. I will not attempt to conjecture the motives of so strange a measure; but I know that it cannot have been more solemn than the repeated oaths and decrees of the constituent and legislative assemblies, never to make conquests. We have seen, in numerous instances, that the decrees of the Convention are not irrevocable; it is unnecessary to carry the recollection farther back than to the treaty with the Royalists and Vendéans, which promised to them a large indemnity, and other conditions applicable only to independent powers; and all this after repeated decrees never to treat with them, but to exterminate them.

§ 38. In treating of the termination of the war, humanity and justice suggest a wish that, whatever may be the modifications of territory and dominion, the principles