

extended to a relinquishment of a more important territory ; I beg permission, by way of a consequence to what may by possibility happen, but with ardent prayers for a better result ; to suppose that those valuable possessions, THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES, are, by some fatality, some secret treaty, some expediency of concession, transferred into the hands of the enemy and rival of these kingdoms, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA* : under such a state of things, I am of opinion, that that nation will have acquired, and then only can possess, every means which can tend to render it truly formidable to Great Britain.

- 1st. The American republic will be placed 3,000 miles beyond assault from any European state whatever.
- 2d. The United States have not, at this time, a single harbour capable of receiving a large fleet of first and second rate ships in safety. I have ventured to challenge any person to point out *one* on the western side of the Atlantic besides those of Nova Scotia, and Louisbourg in an inferior degree, calculated to receive a large fleet of line of battle ships at all seasons of the year †, and to refit them after an accident arising from weather or fight ; but if in possession of the harbours of Nova Scotia, especially that of Halifax, the Americans would become much superior to either England, France, or Spain ; and Britain, France, and Spain are in this particular alike interested in preventing such a general misfortune ; and woe be to them all if they ever suffer such a junction ‡.
- 3d. The British West India possessions, which require certain fresh supplies almost weekly, and cannot, therefore, receive them from Europe, will remain at the absolute disposal of the United States in time of war ; which may compel Great Britain, under apprehensions of such an event, to submit to almost any terms they may please to dictate ; but, at any rate, will so greatly awe her councils, as to afford the States an undue influence over them ||.
- 4th. The island of Cape Breton and the peninsula of Nova Scotia possess many species of minerals not to be found in the United States, east of the Allegany : coal, gypsum, salt, copper, and freestone §.

* Paragraphs 15 and 41. † Paragraph 19, note (*).

‡ Paragraph 39 towards end. || Paragraph 8.

§ I know there is a coal mine of very inferior quality in Virginia,