

the recollection of the dictatorial power occasionally conferred upon persons of great trust and abilities in ancient Rome, in times of difficulty and distress.

Lord Cornwallis prepared to meet these hostile exertions with his usual activity. He was effectually seconded in his views by Lord Rawdon, a young nobleman whose valour and military talents began at this time to display themselves with uncommon lustre. The town of Camden was fixed upon as the centre of operations, from its convenient situation on the Santee, a large river, navigable through a great extent of country, and at hand to convey stores and troops to various parts of the Province, and especially to those bordering on North Carolina, from whence the efforts of the enemy were chiefly expected.

Experience daily shewed what small reliance could be placed on those who had submitted to, and promised to support the British government.—General Gates and Baron Kalbe, a German officer of high merit, were now advancing in great force to oppose the progress of Lord Cornwallis. As soon as they had reached the confines of South Carolina, the people of this Province repaired to them from every district, regardless of their assurances of fidelity, and of their being prisoners on parole. Bodies raised for the British service, took the first opportunity to leave it; two whole battalions went over to the enemy in this manner.

General Gates was now at the head of so considerable a force, that the post at Camden was become very much exposed. His main-body pressed it on the one side, and a strong detachment, under General Sumpter, was endeavouring to cut off its communication with Charlestown. The whole country beyond Camden had declared in his favour. The troops there were in a very reduced condition through