

precluded no future disputes—that very war, I repeat, he now found himself obliged, not for his country but himself, to provoke and accelerate under every additional circumstance of disadvantage. His armaments accordingly were redoubled after the exchange of the Declarations. It was then that he began to press his other points with a degree of pertinacity perfectly inconsistent with his former forbearance. In this extremity France could no longer remain neuter. The eyes of the National Assembly, as well as of the country at large, began to open upon this conduct. They saw, or imagined they saw,—and never surely did the behaviour of an English Minister so much warrant the conclusion,—purposes very different, and infinitely more extensive, gradually develope themselves in his proceedings. They remembered, but gloried in remembering, their own conduct in regard to America, and fancied the moment of their distractions presented an opportunity to retaliate, which those who guided the British counsels would scarcely miss: that the attack meditated against Spain, was but the commencement of a plan, the object of which was the commerce, the colonies, and the maritime power of their own country: that when Spain had fallen, as fall she must, if single and unsupported in such a contest,