

fore possessed by Great Britain in North America; conformable to the fifth and sixth articles above written, the whole as their possessions shall be fixed and assured to the said States, at the moment the cessation of their present war with England.

XII. In order to fix more precisely the sense and application of the preceding article, the contracting parties declare, that in case of a rupture between France and England, the reciprocal guarantee declared in the said article shall have its full force and effect the moment such war shall break out; and if such rupture shall not take place, the mutual obligations of the said guarantees shall not commence until the moment of the cessation of the present war between the United States and England, shall have ascertained their possessions.

XIII. The present treaty shall be ratified on both sides, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in the space of six months, or sooner if possible.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries, to wit, on the part of the Most Christian King, Conrad Alexander Gerard, Royal Syndic of the city of Strasbourg, and Secretary of his Majesty's Council of State:—And on the part of the United States, Benjamin Franklin, deputy to the General Congress, from the State of Pennsylvania, and President of the convention of the said State; Silas Deane, heretofore deputy from the State of Connecticut; and Arthur Lee, Councillor at Law, have signed the above articles both in the French and English languages; declaring nevertheless that the present treaty was originally composed and concluded in the French language, and have hereunto fixed their seals.

*Done at Paris, the sixth Day of February, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight.*

(L.S.)

C. A. GERARD,

(L.S.)

B. FRANKLIN,

(L.S.)

SILAS DEANE,

(L.S.)

ARTHUR LEE.

*Evidence as given before a Committee of the House of Commons, on the enquiry into the conduct of the American War, under the command of Lord and General Sir William Howe.*

Major-General Lord Cornwallis was the first witness called, and, as a Peer, was allowed to sit within the bar. He was examined by Sir William Howe, Mr De Grey, Mr James Luttrell, Commissioner Eden, Mr G. Onslow, and others; but the greatest part of the questions put to him relating to mere matter of opinion, his Lordship declined answering them, and confined himself to matters of fact.

The issue of a very long examination was a clear and honourable justification of the military operations of the army, and of the fleet; his Lordship declared that he knew of no delay, nor of any opportunity lost to bring the enemy to action; and it appeared that the General's

humanity