

energy, of such a government would prove the powerful means of sustaining the United Provinces against the encroachments and seductions of their nearest neighbours; whose attempts, however, would undoubtedly require the additional barrier of a guarantee by Great Britain against further aggrandisement of those neighbours, at least in the north.

But, as before observed, such speculations are altogether premature, and have beguiled pursuit too far. The minds of the Colonists are utterly unprepared to enter upon any such discussions, as they are equally undesirous of the preliminary implied, a separation from Great Britain. The idea of independence, before having the wealth and population necessary to support it, is too absurd for any but the shallow and hot-headed revolutionists, who attempted to extort without power, what they would have administered without talent, and lost without courage. The idea of transferring those Provinces to the United States, has as yet been avowed by no party, and is undoubtedly most repugnant to the feelings and interests of almost the whole population; and, still more, is an event which Great Britain would put forth the whole strength of the empire to forbid.

Such a resolution must long since have been taken by the government of this country, and by men of all parties, who are not too much en-