

her victories, mourned for her disasters, and wished to draw a veil over her crimes, her follies, and her excesses. Even her crimes appeared only as mistakes in my eyes, and her most enormous atrocities as natural, and perhaps necessary consequences of the violent external and internal struggles wherein she was engaged: I called them the crimes of the revolution, not of France, and I pardoned them. Where I could not pardon, I excused them, I palliated. I considered her as fighting in the cause of freedom and humanity, and an end so excellent afforded much consolation for the means which she often employed.

This end we have now seen her most fully attain. We have seen her repel all her enemies, and establish her independence upon the firmest and most formidable basis. We have seen her, instead of being crushed herself, threatening to crush all the surrounding states; annexing some to herself, reducing others to an absolute subserviency to her will, and making deep inroads on the power of the rest; we have seen her, after various revolutions at home, adopt at length the government for which she contended, the government of her own free choice.

Why then, instead of confining herself to her own defence, has she become the assailant? Why does she refuse that peace which her enemies have over and over proposed, and whereby she would be left in possession of very large acquisitions? Why, after renouncing repeatedly, and in the most formal manner, all idea of conquest, does she still press on to new conquests, and proudly refuse even to treat for peace, unless all that she has seized be first confirmed to her, and all that she has lost be first restored?*

Why does she compel all those states, whose councils she can influence or controul; to join her in the war?

* It is on this ground that she has twice repulsed the advances of England and Austria; she has expressly refused the basis of *mutual restitution*, and declared that she would not hear any proposal resting on it. This amounts to saying, All that I have taken I will keep, and all that you have taken you shall give up, and then I will hear what you have to say.