

ANNALS
OF
COMMERCE.

A. D. 1783.

THE first event demanding our attention in the year 1783 was a most auspicious and important one, the conclusion of the preliminary articles of peace, which was accomplished on the 20th day of January at Paris by Mr. Fitzherbert with the comte de Vergennes for France, and with the conde de Aranda for Spain. The Dutch, as they were the last in getting into the war, were now as backward in getting out of it: they demanded advantages which could not be granted, and even set up a claim of indemnification for the losses they had sustained. In consequence of such inadmissible pretensions, no preliminary treaty was concluded with them: but they were comprehended in the agreement for an immediate general cessation of hostilities: so that they were in fact at peace, though they seemed unwilling to acknowledge it.

It was stipulated in the preliminary treaty, that all prizes, which should be taken in the Channel or the North sea within twelve days, in the Mediterranean or in the Ocean as far as the Canary islands within one month, beyond the Canaries as far as the Equinoctial line in two months, and in all more remote parts of the world in five months, should be freely restored.

Though the adjustment of the jarring and intricate interests of so many powers, as were engaged in this war, protracted the negotiations for the peace till the month of September, yet, as the ground-work of it was now concerted, and as all the parties henceforth acted in all respects as if the peace were definitively settled, I think it will scarcely be consider-