

change, we are this day assembled ; and in order to do it with the greater sincerity, it will be requisite to view the dangers we have escaped.

Although Great Britain, after the treaty of Amiens, was in no sort of danger from the dissemination of levelling principles, yet that unfortunate convention left her in a condition which, on reflexion, mortified and grieved the warmest friends of peace. It soon appeared that the honor, rank, and safety, of the nation, were compromised in that arrangement. The most extraordinary concessions and sacrifices had been made, without any equivalent ; and, although in as far as she was alone concerned, she was eminently successful ; she retired from the contest with barren laurels. Not so her enemy. He not only retained all his conquests, but increased his power to a most alarming extent during the negotiations. Bad, however, as this treaty was, some very important advantages attended it. It was a most convincing proof of the freedom enjoyed under the British constitution ; and the great influence of public opinion over the policy of the government. The people, tired of the war, murmured for peace ; and a hollow truce was purchased, with sacrifices which ought to have secured safe and permanent tranquility. But, instead of this, it was followed up with insults and aggressions : the spirit of the nation was said, by the enemy, to be humbled ; and it was arrogantly boasted, that Great Britain durst not oppose France single-handed. The nation awoke from its lethargy ;
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