

in execution ; that with the advice of the grand council, he should have authority to conclude, and carry into effect, any treaties with the Indians, in which all the colonies should have a common interest, as also to make peace with them, or to declare war against the same ; and to take the measures he might judge suitable for regulating the traffic with these tribes ; that he should have power to purchase of the Indians, and for account of the crown, lands, situated without the territories of the particular colonies ; that he should have authority to establish new colonies upon the acquired lands, and to make laws for the regulation and government of these colonies ; that he should have power to levy and pay troops, to construct fortresses, and to equip a fleet for the defense of the coasts, and the protection of commerce ; and also, in order to accomplish these purposes, that he should have power to impose such duties, taxes, or excises, as he might deem most convenient ; that he should appoint a treasurer-general, and a particular treasurer for the provinces in which it might be thought necessary ; that the president-general should have the right to appoint all officers of the service, by land or sea ; and that the appointment of all civil officers should appertain to the grand council ; and finally, that the laws passed by these two authorities could not be contrary, but should even be conformable to the English laws, and transmitted to the king for approbation. •

Such was the model of future government, proposed by the colonies, and sent to England for determination. The Americans attached great hopes to the success of their plan ; already every appearance announced an open rupture with France, and the colonists affirmed, that if the confederation was approved, they should be quite able to defend themselves against the French arms, without any other succor on the part of England.

It is not difficult to perceive how much an order of things, thus constituted, would have impaired the authority of the British government, and approached the colonies towards independence. By this establishment, they would have obtained a local power, which would have exercised all the rights appertaining to sovereignty, however dependent it might appear to be on the mother country. But this project was far from being agreeable to the English ministry, who saw with a jealous eye, that the confederation proposed, furnished a plausible pretext for a concert of intrigues in America, all tending to the prejudice of British sovereignty : and, therefore, notwithstanding the imminent peril of a foreign war against a powerful enemy, the articles of the confederation were not approved.

But the ministers of England were not disposed to let this occasion escape them, of increasing, if it was possible, the authority of