

The very adherence to the treaty on the part of France, must be a breach of the fundamental principle of it; *viz.* peace to America. There is no evasion from this dilemma. If the court of France relinquishes the treaty of alliance, the Gordian knot is untied; If they refuse, It is cut.

So much for this treaty of eventual alliance. But we are not upon solid ground yet. Ministers are groping and undermining still. The Parliament shall not consent. Taxation is gone; legislation is gone; the act of navigation (to my bitterest regret) is surrendered. But Ministers have still a pretext left. This pretext has not yet received a name. It is some equivocal creation between dependence and independence, which is obscurely and vaguely hinted at, on the part of the Commissioners, in all their proclamations and negotiations with the Congress, and supposed to be necessary to something, which they call an *union of force*. This ambiguous thing, when dragged out into day-light, will prove to be neither more nor less than a scheme to plunge the nation into three or four more campaigns, at the the additional expence of thirty or forty millions, the farther loss of thirty or forty thousand of our fellow subjects, the general devastation of America to the utmost stretch of ministerial rage, and the final object, supposed to be attainable by these means, is stiled an *union of force*. The truth is, that this *union of force*, which is infinitely more desirable than the dependence of any one nation upon another, might be within our reach, if we would act wisely and consistently. But our Ministers are striving to lead us in this, as they have done in every thing else, to the total destruction of the very object which they pretend to pursue. An *union of force* with any nation, can only be secured by obtaining the good will of that nation: and therefore the principles of a foederal alliance, founded upon mutual affection, common interest, and common consent, must be the only solid basis for an *union of force*. Mutual affection and common interests will bind two nations together, to every effect of an *union of force*, whether they be independent of each other, or one of them dependent upon the other. Observe the course of the reasoning on the part of the Commissioners. They say to America, in a letter to Congress, dated July 13, 1778, " We are not inclined to dispute with you " about the meaning of words, but so far as you mean the *entire privilege* of the people " of North America to dispose of their property, and to govern themselves without any " reference to Great-Britain, *beyond what is necessary to preserve that union of force*, in " which our mutual safety and advantage consists, we think so far their *independency is " fully acknowledged* in the terms of our letter of the tenth of June." The passage thus alluded to in the letter from the Commissioners to Congress of the tenth of June, is their offer " To establish the power of the respective legislatures in each particular state to settle its *revenue*, its civil and *military* establishments, &c." The Commissioners after this proceed to state argumentatively the grounds and principles upon which this *union of force* is to be established. " In the mean time we assure you, that no circumstance will give " us more satisfaction, than to find that the *extent* of our future *connection* is to be determined on principles of *mere reason*, and considerations of *mutual interest*, on which