

the nation, who is the guarantee, takes no part in the transaction. It will not be thus with a National Compact which will confederate, in some measure, two countries, one to the other, and who will, on all great occasions, unite their interests, and most powerful efforts.—Such a Compact can alone bind every individual to act by general consent, and produce an indissoluble alliance, supported by the unshaken bases of public faith.

These observations are the result of the investigation of your Committee. — They comprehend three points distinct from each other, although indivisible, as you may observe. The developement of two principles, which ought to be the basis of your political system, a decision which preserves a useful alliance, by declaring to the King of Spain, that we will fulfill our engagements; the demand of the Decree to direct your Committee to make such modifications in the renewal of this alliance as circumstances may require. But this determination, if adopted by you, necessarily points to other measures. The maintenance of our alliance with Spain would be illusory and vain, if, at the same time that we gave all the strength of our influence to negotiations for the repose of a part of Europe, we neglected to augment our armaments, in a similar proportion to those of our neighbouring states. It is not merely for the sake of our distant possessions, and the wealth they may contain, that obliges us to arm before the moment of aggression—our commerce should be guaranteed, not only from real dangers, but the apprehen-