

is a confirmation of the propriety of their political conduct during the whole course of the war. My friends must feel poignant shame and deep humiliation at the situation to which by these terms this country is reduced, but which they have laboured steadily to avert. Those who oppose this peace have been arraigned by the last speaker, as aiming at a censure on the issue of the negotiations, and on the ministers themselves. And certainly, sir, their object is to condemn the peace, and to cast a slur on the abilities of his majesty's ministers. But, in this conduct of theirs, they have at least the merit of being consistent. I support the peace, because I feel confident no better terms, considering all circumstances, could be got. Their predecessors had taken care of that. They had left them no choice, but between an expensive, bloody, and fruitless war, and a perilous and hollow peace.

They have chosen the best of the alternatives. Now, says the minister, they who oppose me, depress the country. I thank these *new* oppositionists for their manly firmness in coming forward and opposing, upon their own principles, this degrading treaty. Let the people of this country be fully aware of all the circumstances of the peace. *They* have done their duty, then, in thus publicly discussing them. But a right hon. gentleman—not here this evening—an ex-minister too—suspects something more. If he has not altered his opinion since the preceding day, he suspects their motives. They, says he, disapprove the treaty, and attack administration, because they wish to drive out ministers, and succeed to their places; and for that purpose they have formed a confederacy. Truly, sir, a heavy charge. But, I must declare, that they never veiled their opinions. Some of them, especially, have been at all times very open, and I conceive that it would be high injustice to suspect them upon slight grounds of a dirty cabal to turn out the present ministers. Says the right hon. gentleman, upon their principles they would never have made