

develope the general system of policy towards other nations, which she appears to be pursuing. This part of the subject I apprehend will be found deserving of particular attention ; for without taking into view her general plan of foreign policy, it will be extremely difficult to discern the principles whereby her conduct towards ourselves is directed.

And permit me, fellow citizens, to introduce my remarks on this subject, by a declaration to the truth whereof most of you can bear witness. Permit me to declare, that while France appeared to be engaged in a struggle for liberty and national independence, no heart beat higher than mine with affection for her cause. I joined with enthusiasm in the general exultation of my country for her victories, mourned for her disasters, and wished to draw a veil over her crimes, her follies, and her excesses. Ever crimes appeared only as mistakes in my eyes, and her most enormous atrocities as natural, and perhaps necessary consequences of the violent external and internal struggles wherein she was engaged ; I called them the crimes of the revolution, not of France, and I pardoned them. Where I could not pardon, I excused them, I palliated. I considered her as fighting in the cause of freedom and humanity, and an end so excellent afforded much consolation for the means which she often employed.

This end we have now seen her most fully attain.