

A. D. 1783.

It was affirmed, that the portion of the coast of Newfoundland, taken from the French by the treaty, was more valuable than the additional portion resigned to them on the west side; and that the fish are larger, more plentiful, and also more easily cured, on the coast marked out as the exclusive property of the British fishermen, than on the western coast, where the fogs are more prevalent. In the West-Indies the loss of Tobago was palliated by the consideration, that it was unhealthy; and the restoration of St. Lucia was well recompensed by the recovery of six sugar islands taken from us. Senegal and Goree were represented as exceedingly unhealthy, and as objects of little importance in respect of commerce*; and, as they previously belonged to the French, they had the best title to them. But the River Gambia being navigable for several hundred miles, and near the Gold coast, might lead to prospects of benefit: and the trade of all the rest of Africa was still open to Britain. The cessions to France in the East-Indies were vindicated by the situation of the British affairs in that part of the world, and still more by the distressed state of the East-India company's finances both at home and abroad, which peace alone could restore to any degree of prosperity. The mortifying conditions with respect to Dunkirk, imposed upon France by former treaties, were truly argued to be of no use, but to exasperate a neighbour against us: and it was described as a port of no consequence, incapable of receiving large ships, but extremely well adapted for carrying on the English and Irish trade to the Low countries, a branch of commerce of acknowledged great importance.

Such were the principal heads of the parliamentary censures and defences of the pacification.

At this time many people apprehended, that it would be impossible for Great Britain ever to recover from the distress brought upon her by the enormous accumulation of debt created by the war, and by the total privation of the American trade, which, it was supposed, would go entirely among the other nations of Europe, especially those who had been allied with America in the war†. Some went even so far as to forebode, that our commerce must soon be at an end, and consequently our maritime power be annihilated. But, from conjectures and melancholy apprehensions, let us turn our eyes to facts, the review of the past being the only rule given to man for judging of the future. 'In the course of former hostilities,' says Mr. Chalmers, in his judicious *Estimate of the comparative strength of Great Britain*, [p. 162, ed. 1794] 'we have seen our navigation and commerce pressed down to a certain point, whence both gradually rose, even before the return of peace removed the incumbent pressure. All this an accurate eye may per-

* For a very different account of Senegal in the year 1763, see *V. iii*, p. 375.

† We have already seen, that, even during the

heat of the war, American consumption was supplied by British manufactures.