

towards a Treaty, have not infatuated them to prefer unnecessary and ruinous Conquests, to a reasonable and solid Peace.

It is, therefore, to be hoped, and to be believed, that Peace is not at a great Distance; and upon this Supposition I shall beg Leave to offer a few Considerations to *you*, as to the Persons on whom the Fate of this Country depends; Considerations which are equally important as they are seasonable; and an Attention to which, before you enter upon any Negotiation, may, perhaps, assist you (if I may be allowed to suppose you stand in Need of any Assistance) in directing this Negotiation to such an Issue, as may be equally honourable to yourselves, and useful to the Public.

In this Situation of Affairs, one of the first Matters relative to the future Negotiation, which, no doubt, must occur to you, will be, the Choice of those Persons who are to be trusted with the great Concerns of this Nation as *Plenipotentiaries*. And, as much will depend upon this Point, I shall beg Leave to begin with giving you my Thoughts upon it, and the other Topics on which I propose to trouble you, will naturally arise from each other, without observing any other *Order*, or Connection, besides that in which they shall present themselves to a Mind intent upon its Subject.

With regard, then, to the Choice of *Plenipotentiaries*, I cannot but lament the Difficulties you have to encounter, before you will be able to find such as the Public will have Reason to thank you for.—I am not totally unknowing in the Characters and Capacities of many among the great. But when I cast my Eyes around me, I own that I am surpris'd, greatly surpris'd, but still more grieved, to find so few among us, capable of conducting the arduous Task of making a Peace. Whether this
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