

not be ignorant that the Congress, on a former and nearly similar occasion, * had shewn their disregard of public faith, and their contempt of the law of nations; and that, independently of future occurrences, it was even then manifestly their interest rather to detain the troops in captivity, than to suffer them to return for the defence of this kingdom. But though a confidence so indiscreetly reposed, may be palliated by our respect for even romantic honour, yet we cannot but regret a measure, the mysterious policy of which proved a foundation of endless disputes, and furnished a thousand pretences for perfidy.

The situation in which this treaty had placed you, was so novel in it's kind, and even the continuance of your present immunities, as well as the accomplishment of your future hopes, so precarious, so entirely dependent on the pleasure of the enemy, as to require every possible attention to the dictates of prudence, of candour, and of moderation. Yet you sought almost immediately for causes of dispute, with those into whose power you had delivered yourself and your army, and on whose faith alone you must of necessity depend for your enlargement. You accused them
of

* The convention made by General Arnold with Captain Foster, for an exchange of prisoners taken at the Cedars, and evaded by Congress.