

nation, of which they were but sorry representatives, when once conscious of its real position shrank from no sacrifice in order to better it. When Bonaparte's aggressive policy and commercial exclusiveness convinced Great Britain that the Peace of Amiens was but the stepping-stone to a wider conflict, she refused even to fulfil her pledges in that treaty, and preferring to choose her own time rather than to abide his, she at once re-opened a burdensome contest, for which she was still, and he not yet, prepared. The wisdom of the choice was vindicated at Trafalgar, at Leipsic, and at Waterloo.