

war) are comprehended several articles for the purpose of binding Spain to the views of that Minister.—She is bound down to assist us even in cases where we may be the aggressors.—But since we renounce the observance of such engagements in our own case, we absolve others from the same stipulations.

The articles which ought to be ratified, are those relative to a reciprocal guarantee of possessions, to the mutual succours which the two nations ought to give to each other, and to the Commercial intercourse.—The rest ought to be modified and explained, for it is impossible you can adhere to offensive clauses, who have been the first people in Europe to abjure and renounce them.

The only measure your Committee proposes on that head, in case you shall adopt, at the present moment, the plan of the Decree to be submitted to you, is, that you shall direct a particular examination to be made of the articles of the Family Compact, in order to enable you to strengthen our connections with Spain, by converting this Treaty into a National Compact, by retrenching all the useless clauses and stipulations of an offensive nature, and by addressing the King to give orders to his Minister to negotiate with Spain for a renewal of the Treaty on principles which shall receive your approbation. Thus the interest of Spain will be reconciled to your own. What is a Compact between one Cabinet and another? One Minister frames it, another Minister may destroy it.—Ambition conceived it, rivalry may annihilate it.—The monarch is often the sole dictator, while
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