

mening with France, *all* our treaties with that power, from 1778, to the present timé, have been inserted in the order of their dates; and so on, with the other nations that follow.—In general, where treaties have been framed in two languages, both are presented in opposite pages, not only for the satisfaction of those who may find it necessary to consult a copy of the original, but also for foreign ministers, and others, who may prefer perusing the work in that dress. For another reason, it is important to furnish both languages: the reader may thereby be enabled to arrive at the literal meaning of doubtful text, involving points upon which difference of opinion may arise, in expounding treaty stipulations: hence the judgment is left free, unbiassed, and independent of the trammels of translation.—The plan, thus chalked out, has been pursued as un-deviatingly as possible.

Accompanying these treaties and conventions, such official documents, only, are inserted, as have an immediate connexion with the subject: for example, the correspondence of his Imperial Majesty, on the subject of the St. Petersburg Convention, of the 12th July, 1822—decisions under the fourth and sixth articles of the treaty of Ghent—the grants annulled by the Spanish treaty of February 22, 1819, &c.—among other official papers, immediately follow the respective treaties in the body of the work; so that they may be consulted without turning over the pages to another part of the book.

In furnishing the Appendix, as much matter has been brought together, as, in my idea, may be useful to the work. A copy of the Constitution of the United States (with all the ratified amendments) precedes it, as being peculiarly appropriate to have a place near our public conventions. The laws, in relation to our diplomatic corps, consuls, vice consuls, and commercial agents; the standing consular instructions of the Department of State: proclamations and laws in