

The above articles shall be proposed to the legislative bodies of all the United States, to be examined by them; and if they approve of them, they are desired to authorize their delegates to ratify them in the General Assembly; after which all the articles which constitute the present confederation, shall be inviolably observed by all and every of the United States; and the union shall be established for ever. There shall not be made hereafter any alteration in these articles, nor in any of them, unless that the alterations be previously determined in the General Assembly, and confirmed afterwards by the legislative bodies of each of the United States.

Resolved and signed at Philadelphia, in Congress, the 4th of October, 1776.

Treaty of Alliance, Eventual and Defensive, between his Most Christian Majesty Louis the Sixteenth, King of France, and Navarre, and the Thirteen United States of America, concluded at Paris, 6th of February, 1778.

The Most Christian King and the United States of North America, to wit, New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, having this day concluded a treaty of amity and commerce, for the reciprocal advantage of their subjects and citizens, have thought it necessary to take into consideration the means of strengthening those engagements, and of rendering them useful to the safety and tranquility of the two parties; particularly in case Great Britain, in resentment of that connection, and of the good correspondence which is the object of the said treaty, should break the peace with France, either by direct hostilities, or by hindering her commerce and navigation, in a manner contrary to the rights of nations, and the peace subsisting between the two crowns. And his Majesty and the said United States having resolved in that case to join their councils and efforts against the enterprizes of their common enemy. The respective Plenipotentiaries, empowered to concert the clauses and conditions proper to fulfil the said intentions, have, after the most mature deliberation, concluded and determined on the following articles.

ARTICLE I. If war should break out between France and Great Britain, during the continuance of the present war between the United States and England, his Majesty and the said United States shall make a common cause, and aid each other mutually with their good offices, in their councils, and their forces, according to the exigency of conjunctures, as becomes good and faithful allies.

ARTICLE II. The essential and direct end of the present defensive alliance is, to maintain effectually the liberty, sovereignty, and independence, absolute and unlimited of the said United States, as well in matters of government as of commerce.

ARTICLE III. The two contracting parties shall each on its own part, and in