

taken out of our scale, but it is also thrown into the opposite one. If America were to become a great and independent power in a durable alliance with France, what a powerful addition of strength would this country have to combat in every future war with her natural enemies ! But if France were not to succeed in her views upon America, and the latter were to become a great nation unconnected with her, it is at least certain, that if America and this country were to make war against each other, France would always join America. Lord Shelburne truly said, *When the independence of America shall be acknowledged, the sun of this country will be set for ever in the West.*—The power, the commerce, the constitution of this country, can exist no longer than America is dependent upon her.

If we are not convinced of this truth, every blow that we strike is an outrage done to humanity. Every drop of blood that we spill becomes an indelible stain upon the national character. We do not wage honourable war. We commit barbarous murder.—If, on the contrary, we feel its force, the object is worth contending for. Every man will be convinced that the safety and existence of his country are at stake ; that he is not struggling for dominion and empire, but that he is fighting *pro aris et focis*. He must not listen to the idle discourses of extravagant theorists, who talk of “ the friendship