

bassadors and inferior ministers, the commerce of private subjects, the grounds of just war, the mutual duties of belligerent and neutral powers, the limits of lawful hostility, the rights of conquest, the faith to be observed in warfare, the force of an armistice, of safe-conducts and passports, the nature and obligation of alliances, the means of negotiation, and the authority and interpretation of treaties of peace. All these, and many other most important and complicated subjects, with all the variety of moral reasoning, and historical examples, which is necessary to illustrate them, must be fully examined in this part of the lectures, in which I shall endeavour to put together a tolerably complete practical system of the law of nations, as it has for the last two centuries been recognised in Europe.

“ *Le droit des gens* est naturellement fondé sur
 “ ce principe ; que les diverses nations doivent se
 “ faire, dans la paix, le plus de bien, et dans la
 “ guerre le moins de mal, qu'il est possible, sans
 “ nuire à leurs véritables intérêts.

“ L'objet de la guerre c'est la victoire ; celui
 “ de la victoire la conquête ; celui de la conquête
 “ la conservation. De ce principe & du préce-
 “ dent, doivent dériver toutes les loix qui forment
 “ *le droit des gens*.

“ Toutes