

amined and analyzed, and if it has appeared, and shall yet appear, that their *conduct* is in direct opposition to their *declaration*; we ought to entertain but one sentiment in regard to them, and that is, that by adding duplicity to injurious projects and ruinous measures, they merit a double portion of our resentment and distrust.

An overwhelming mass of these pacifick professions flowed in upon us at the moment when this unjust and unnecessary war was declared, and a new edition of the same hollow and insincere declarations has just been published, at the very moment, when we are carrying *fire* and *sword* into the peaceful colonies of Great-Britain—when we are excited by every species of exaggeration and misrepresentation to carry on the war with ferocity and fury.

It is pretended by the president, that at the very moment of his declaration of War, he made new efforts to obtain peace, and even solicited an *armistice* before an actual appeal to arms had been made. We shall say nothing upon this new and unheard of procedure. We shall admit, though we think the conduct extraordinary, that if proposals were made to Great-Britain, such as even a feeble, a base and degraded nation could accept from a haughty and much more powerful foe, that the administration deserve credit for.

But if it shall appear, as it will, that the offers made were not only illusory but insulting; if they were such as any nation not ready to pass under the yoke, would have rejected;—if, in short, it must have been foreseen that they would be rejected by Great-Britain, I can only say that the people ought to view with disdain this attempt to impose upon their understandings.

It is my design to *analyze* this whole correspondence with Great-Britain, and I fear that I shall be compelled to shew, to the disgrace of our rulers, that all this parade of negotiation had only one object in view, to enable the president to make a shew of a pacifick disposition—to lull the fears and excite the hopes of the people;—to *secure the reelection of the Author of this War to the Presidency*.

In executing this task, I must entreat the attention of my readers to two circumstances which they must keep in mind throughout the whole discussion.

The one is, that in examining the negotiations and propositions of our artful cabinet, propositions adroitly stated, carefully considered, cautiously expressed, combining all the talents of the president and his ministers, very considerable time and attention will be requisite.

I am persuaded that to the great mass of readers, the subject will be uninteresting—the topics are too refined, the argument too elaborate and complicated for general use.

It is only from those, whose means of information, and whose power of discrimination qualify them to follow a continued train of reasoning, and whose patriotism and zeal will induce them to undertake it, that I expect attention.

It is however a solemn duty in all those, who know how often