

tone in his opponents, hastily came to terms. The Preliminaries thus concluded converted a drawn fight into a British defeat. Of her numerous, almost numberless, conquests in the Mediterranean, in the Indies, and in America, Great Britain retained only Trinidad and Ceylon. The remainder, including the strategic positions of the Cape, Minorca, and Malta she surrendered, although in the case of Malta it was necessary first to *create* an owner to whose keeping it might be committed. Pitt was not satisfied with these Preliminaries, but he supported them, and he also supported the subsequent peace, although in the interval between them Bonaparte's aggressive policy in the newly-created Italian republics had taught Pitt that his experiment at conciliation was a failure, and that the peace, in spite of the sacrifices made by Great Britain to obtain it, could not be lasting.

The nation first reached this conviction later. The peace of Amiens, in spite of its defects, was received in Great Britain with a blind enthusiasm. So great was the rejoicing in London that, on the arrival of Bonaparte's aide-de-camp, Lauriston, with the ratification of the treaty, the populace removed the horses from his carriage and drew him in triumph through the streets of the metropolis. In connection with these rejoicings Lord Minto has recorded an incident at once amusing and significant.<sup>178</sup> Among the illuminations and mottoes with which Otto decorated his residence in honour of the restoration of peace, there occurred the word "concorde," which the mob in its ignorance mistook for "conquered." They made Otto alter it. "It was too near the truth," Minto adds, in relating the incident, "to be told by him." And looking only to the previous stage of the contest with France, as Minto of necessity did, his comment, though bitter, is just; but the incident, if viewed in the light of subsequent events, gains a higher significance. *The mob carried its point.* Even so the

<sup>178</sup> In a letter to his wife, 23 April, 1802, Minto, *Life and Letters &c.*, III, 247.