

THESE are the Acts—these exertions of constitutional, and hitherto, undisputed powers, for which, in this audacious paper, a patriot King is traduced—as “a Prince, whose character is marked by every Act which may define a tyrant;” as “unfit to be the ruler of a free people.” These are the Acts, these exertions of constitutional, and, hitherto, undisputed powers, by which the Members of the Congress declare their selves and their constituents to be “absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown;” pronounce “all political connection between Great Britain and America to be totally dissolved.” With that hypocrisy which pervades the whole of the Declaration, they pretend indeed, that this event is not of their seeking; that it is forced upon them; that they only “acquiesce in <sup>the</sup> necessity which denounces their separation from us:” which compels them hereafter to hold us, as they “hold the rest of mankind; enemies in war; in peace, friends.”

The pretence of being forced to this step hypocritical.

How this Declaration may strike others, I know not. To me, I own, it appears that it cannot fail—to use the words of a great Orator—“of doing us *Knight’s service*.” The mouth of faction, we may reasonably presume, will be closed; the eyes of those who saw not, or would not see, that the Americans were long since aspiring at independence, will be opened; the nation will unite as one man, and teach this rebellious people, that it is one thing for them to say, the connection, which bound them to us, is dissolved, another to dissolve it; that to accomplish their independence is not quite so easy as to declare it: that there is no

Probable effects of this Declaration.

\* Mr. Burke’s speech,