

"treacherous and delusive peace *," if not made conformable to their own ideas (though ever so absurd) could I think it other than an offence to candour and fair reasoning, especially when there was so much room to doubt their systems by their many contradictions and inconsistencies? we were told that the French "were tired of Canada," and that it "was not worth their asking:" and that, "the inclemency of the climate," and "the difficult access to it," were not the only causes of this dislike, but still farther, "a trade scarcely defraying the expence of the colony;" and yet, Sir, this very colony was recommended to us by the same author, as singly to be preferred before all other objects, and every other conquest that we had, or might obtain from the enemy, was to be sacrificed at a future negociation. I say, Sir, such seeming inconsistencies must excite doubts of the truth of those facts, or the propriety of the author's hypothesis, and a desire among unprejudiced men, and those who know what they read, to have the subject farther discussed, and made consonant, at least, to common comprehension. Though inferior in dignity and fortune, my opinion, in that or any other matter, might be equally strong and important, my love to my country equally prevalent and disinterested. If I had doubts, I had a right to divulge those doubts, I had a right to expect them to be cleared up, and to suspend my judgment till it was effectually complied with. To see, therefore, every avenue to that desirable end, forcibly stopped up by such rude and hasty declarations in favour of a particular object, as that without it we

* Letter to two great men, p. 20. † Ibid. p. 30, 31.