

Rhode Island to be recalled from that station to enforce the troops at New York. Thus, had the French commander succeeded at Savannah, it was much to be doubted, whether he would have been equally successful in the subsequent part of his design.

But his defeat and expulsion from Georgia, having given a new turn to affairs, a different plan of operations took place of course in the councils of the British commanders at New York. The disappointment experienced by the Americans had greatly dispirited them. The troops that had resorted to General Washington from various parts, in full confidence of putting an end to the war by a decisive blow, now returned home in high discontent, and bitterly complaining that no reliance could be placed on their new ally; from whom they had hitherto received great promises but little effects.

In this state of public dissatisfaction among the Americans, it was resolved to carry the British arms southward; where the distance from the center of the enemy's strength opened a fair prospect of success, and where an impression upon them would be more severely felt than elsewhere, from the greater value of the countries, of which reduction was in view, in point of riches and commercial produce and importance.

The possession of Georgia afforded a ready access to the large and valuable Province of Carolina. From this motive, and those above mentioned, it was determined to make this the object of an expedition, while the enemy's force was in a great measure scattered and dispersed by the disbanding of the major part of the army under General Washington; and the splitting of the other corps into numerous detachments, for the purpose of protecting the various places that were liable to be attacked.

Towards