

It will be said, perhaps, that Spain, confiding in our assistance, will not yield in any point in a negotiation for peace; whereas if we take no concern in the quarrel, the accommodation we desire will neither be tedious nor difficult.— We have already answered this objection; the principles which we propose to you to decree, shall leave no doubt of our intentions to Great Britain, and will evidently point out to Spain, that our constitution only regards as obligatory engagements of a defensive nature; our conduct shall have no hostile aspect, which is not warranted by necessity. It cannot appear hostile to the English, unless they wish to be the aggressors; besides, if it is true that by abandoning our engagements, Spain will be forced to negotiate a peace more readily with England, is it not easy to foresee, (whatever may be the nature of such accommodation) the irreparable injury which our credit and our commerce will sustain by such a negotiation. It is not absolutely the *Family Compact* which we propose to you to ratify, concluded as it was at a period, when the Kings spoke for their people, as if the country which they governed had been their patrimonial inheritance, or as if the will of the monarch should have decided on their fate.

This treaty bears the singular name of the *Family Compact*; there does not, however, exist one of our decrees which does not announce to all Europe, that we acknowledge none but *National Compacts*. In this treaty (formed by a French Minister, whom ambition fired to repair the losses of an unfortunate war,)