

er and more extensive calamities. Successes could not conceal them from us ; nor could they conceal our losses ; for we must honestly confess, that we had but alternate success. Our successes, or defences appeared to be the work, or the will, of a merciful Providence. When the news of peace arrived, we uttered the spontaneous effusions, the unrestrained sentiments of the heart, before we had time for reflection or consideration. We showed, how great a blessing we esteemed it, how greatly it was desired.

Afterwards we began to inquire ; What have we gained by the peace ? We have gained peace. Is not that enough ? What would you have more ? Would you rather have the war continued ? What have we gained by the war ? Or what should we gain, if it were continued ? We should probably gain only greater losses ; or, if we lost nothing, we could no longer expect to gain any thing from a powerful nation, released from her European engagements, and free to bend all her strength against us. If we could defend ourselves, that was enough for us to expect or hope. In the mean time, this defence would have cost us dear ; and after all, we should do well, if we could end, where we began. The times are changed, and we are changed with them. The great powers of the world are changed. When we began, the predominant powers were on our side. We might flatter ourselves, that we could do what we would, and accomplish all our plans. But such is the foresight of man ! That flattering hour was an evil hour. What mortal man could foresee the surprising turn of affairs in the world ? In process of time, and of no long time, the powers were turned against us ; or left us to cope alone with a nation, which we must acknowledge to be very formidable. It was time for us to change likewise. It was a time for peace, if we could make it. To this all must assent ; if we cannot agree, that it was a time for war, when we did make it. It is better to repent, to change our mind and conduct, than to