

factures, numbers must occasionally be deprived of employment; the tide of prosperity would rise in one place, and fall in another. It was absurd to say that our wealth was in the hands of few; it was impossible that a country should have much wealth, which was monopolized by a small proportion of its inhabitants. Unhappily it was believed by some, who denied not the pre-eminence of wealth and comfort which this country enjoyed, that these blessings might be preserved without the aid of arms. We were exhorted to rest contented with our commerce and prosperity, without knowing whether the French would permit us to retain them. Just as a king of England once asked, why his subjects, who were dying with famine, would not eat bread and cheese? when, alas! they could not get bread and cheese to eat. Mr. Windham recapitulated the indignities to which this country had submitted from France. Had she not plucked the cockades from our soldiers' hats in Portugal; and prevailed on us to concede to Holland the honours of the flag? Had not the French government, without communication, annexed to itself the Cisalpine republic, leaving the British ambassador to kick his heels in an antichamber at Amiens? From these considerations Mr. Windham expressed his conviction, that on the 30th September, previous to the signing of the preliminaries, the fee simple of England was worth more than it would be for many years. He was, however, not disposed to think that we should swerve from the peace; the bond was signed, and we were bound to adhere to it; but, though it be impossible to renew the war with advantage or honour, it was necessary to consolidate the peace, by removing all grounds of dispute and dissension; if the French cherished no hostile views, it would be wise to anticipate all grounds of difference. Mr. Windham concluded with observing, that the predictions of evil from the loss of America were already in part fulfilled; and that the predictions of evil from the aggrandizement of France, if not immediately, must