

funding to the possessors of their estates the bona-fide price (where any may have been given) which they may have paid for such lands.

6) It was declared, that no further confiscations should be made, or prosecutions commenced against any person for the part taken by him in the war, and that those, who were in confinement on such charges, should be set at liberty.

7) The British forces were with all convenient speed to evacuate every post, place, and harbour, within the territories of the United states, without destroying or carrying off any property of the American inhabitants.

8) The navigation of the Mississippi, from its source to the Ocean, was declared to be free and open to the subjects of Great Britain and the citizens of the United states \*.

Thus was a period put to the slaughters and the desolations of war: thus were the enemies of Great Britain gratified with the accomplishment of their desires, the dismemberment of the British empire: and thus was Britain relieved from the burthen of the greatest part of her American colonies.

The terms of the pacification were, as usual, censured in parliament by those, who were not admitted to have any hand in it, and defended by the ministry. The treatment of the loyalists of America, who were left to the generosity, or mercy, of the several states, and the abandonment of the Indians, hitherto accustomed to look up to Britain as the greatest power upon earth, were loudly execrated. The boundaries of the United states with the provinces of Quebec and Nova Scotia were said to be so settled, that the forts and passes, necessary for securing the fur trade, were unnecessarily given away. The navigation of the Mississippi, reserved to us by the treaty, was represented as useless and abortive†. The cession of Florida, the restitution of St. Lucia, and, in short, every single article in favour of the other powers in any quarter of the globe, were severely reprehended; as if we had had it in our own power to recover all our losses in the war, and also to retain all our conquests. Dunkirk, that old bone of contention, was now represented as a port of the greatest consequence, capable of containing twenty or thirty ships of a formidable size, of destroying our commerce, of controlling England in the Channel, and of attacking her in the very mouth of the Thames.

In defence of the peace the ministers observed, that the loyalists might be rendered easy and comfortable without any waste of blood, and at a trifling expense, if they should not be received into the bosom

\* The preliminary treaties were signed at Paris on the 30th of September.  
† It may be acknowledged, that, as the United States possess

the mouth of the river, the passage of any vessel, belonging to either of them, to or from the sea must depend on the pleasure of the power, in whose dominions the entry of it lies.