

His Majesty could not but feel how much the means of Peace had been obstructed by the many additional difficulties which his Enemies had so repeatedly thrown in the way of every Negotiation. Nevertheless, on the very first appearance of circumstances in some degree more favourable to the interests of humanity, the same ardent desire for the ease and happiness of his Subjects, induced his Majesty to renew his overtures for terminating the calamities of War : thus availing himself of every opening which could in any manner lead to secure and honourable Peace, and consulting equally the wishes of his own heart, and the principles by which his conduct has invariably been guided.

New obstacles were immediately interposed by those who still directed the Councils of France, and who, amidst the general desire for Peace, which they could not at that time openly disclaim, still retained the power of frustrating the wishes of their own country, of counteracting his Majesty's benevolent intentions, and of obstructing that result, which was so necessary for the happiness of both nations. Difficulties of form were studiously created ; modes of Negotiation were insisted upon, the most inconsistent with their own conduct in every other instance ; the same spirit appeared in every step which was taken by them ; and while the most unwarranted