

the administration of his distracted kingdoms.

Lord Shelburne had scarce been in office six months, before he accomplished that object for which, in the opinion of Mr. Fox, even the unconditional sacrifice of acknowledging American independence, prior to any negotiation, was to be made without any hesitation. He effected a treaty of peace with the four several powers, with whom we were then at war: and, though in the judgment of all parties it was not a time for us to dictate our terms, we obtained such, as, considering our distresses, it was highly our interest to accept.

By this time however, Mr. Fox had formed a coalition with Lord North, the adversary to whom he had so lately been opposed, and whose removal from office he had considered as an object worthy to be attained even at the hazard of all the mischief resulting from an unremitting opposition to the measures of government during the progress of an extensive and complicated war. The result was the condemnation of the peace, which, as it was said at the time, Lord North had rendered necessary, and Mr. Fox had declared to be so. This was followed by the resignation