

with England on the carpet. It is, no doubt, to the profound silence of our government on this subject, when he left Paris, that we must attribute the passive line of conduct he has held in circumstances so important. Genet had given the alarm on the real intentions of the administration; but his conduct, his passions, rendered his reports suspected, and other passions, interested in a contrary direction, have made promises which have only ended in prolonging our security. As soon as the constitutional government was settled, and that the Directory was in a situation to follow any system as to external affairs, it could not be long without perceiving how we had been the dupes of America. The treaty of London had completely opened all eyes: The material change which was openly effected in the neutrality of the United States, by virtue of that treaty,* has put the seal of duplicity and of falshood on the assurances so often repeated, that the treaty should make no change in the state of things which existed prior to that treaty. The United States, on the first intelligence of our awakening, took for hostilities the ending of our excessive and patient toleration. General Washington, seeing the end of his political career darkened by clouds which announced a serious discontent on the part of the Republic, sought, by a measure equally unjust and impolitic, to escape its odium: He recalled Mr. Monroe, who has been guilty of the wrong, according to his view of things, of being attached to the principles of our revolution, and of being the open enemy to British influence, as well as to the system which that influence had caused to be adopted. He believed it in his power to throw upon Mr. Monroe, and upon his party, all the blame arising from the actual state of things, by accusing him, as it were, of having caused it. The result of this false step has been to leave the Directory abandoned, without any counterpoise, to its suspicions; this event has confirmed and encreased them, and our measures have become more decisive. Far from explaining our conduct as it was natural by the system

* The French minister was notified, after the exchange of ratifications, that we should no longer enjoy the advantage, which till then had been granted us, to sell in the American ports our English prizes.