

been systematically pursued, or as it has fallen into neglect, the consequence and security of the British nation has always increased or diminished. It would perhaps be superfluous now to enquire, by what fatality it was that at the commencement of the American war we were found without a single ally; and that while every year brought some fresh accession to the league, which during the progress of that war was combined against us, we were left to the last to maintain the struggle, without any other assistance than the national vigour and resources of the country, discouraged and crippled by so many concurring circumstances. But without referring to the causes of this misfortune, the effects of it we have all felt, and must long remember. The united hostility of so many of the powers of Europe, and the more than suspicious neutrality of the rest, reduced us to the necessity of concluding a peace on terms of concession and humiliation. And by a natural effect, these evils operated reciprocally the one upon the other; so that as our being destitute of allies was one principal cause of our losses during the war; so the condition to which we were reduced at the peace, was a discouragement to any power, even if any such had existed, who was disposed to connect its interests with those of Great Britain.

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