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HAVING been, for some time, diverted from my course, to take a view of some particular matters, I now return to that which is the more general subject of these papers, the alliance of the States with France.

The abbe Mably observes, "that it is not so easy as one may suppose, to give a good form to a treaty, which embraces many objects. How many plenipotentiaries, says that judicious writer, have well deserved the reputation which they have acquired, and yet have failed in this work!

So far the judicious abbe: And without doubt, there is great force of truth in these words; for, to make an able negotiator, it is requisite that he understand the commercial and territorial interests of the respective states; what it may be necessary to acquire, to give stability and safety to his own cause; what it may be proper to cede, in order to remove suspicion and jealousy from the minds of the enemy; and what may be the interests and the sentiments of the neighbouring powers, with regard to the stipulations of the treaty.

Notwithstanding I have had little opportunity to convince you of my real esteem and affection for you, I have however often wished, that God may conduct and save you, and by his assistance may be the means to promote the happiness and prosperity of our dear country, with that of the thirteen United American States.

the audience, so in any treaty, a noble outline and just order is requisite, that it may be comprehended by the most simple nation.

The language of the treaty is also worthy of attention. For, as in contracts between individuals, a term not known to the law, or a dubious expression, may be the foundation of expensive lawsuits between the parties, so in a compact between nations, the ambiguity of a single phrase may give rise to long contentions.

I have considered with attention those treaties which subsist between France and these States, and I find them drawn up in a manner very satisfactory. The ministers appear to have understood, to the most minute particulars, the interests of France and of these States; and we know that a perfect knowledge is the foundation of what is excellent in every performance of the mind.

The affairs of America and France were well understood by those concerned in drawing up these treaties. The plan is extensive and comprehends every possible interest of the two nations, not only for the present, but for the future time. The ideas are precise, with regard to these interests. The order is luminous; the language is unambiguous, and clear. I do not find one term, on which the wit of man, serving the purposes of his dishonesty, can raise a doubtful construction.

CHARLESTOWN, South-Carolina, Oct. 26. LAST Thursday evening the honourable major-general Lincoln, commanding the troops in the Southern department, returned here from the Southward.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6. Extra of a letter from Mr. Hendrik Hoof, burgo-master of the city of Amsterdam, to his friend in Connecticut, dated July 22, 1779.

tion for you, I have however often wished, that God may conduct and save you, and by his assistance may be the means to promote the happiness and prosperity of our dear country, with that of the thirteen United American States.

It is not impossible to imitate the deity, from whom we have received all, more than to sacrifice joyfully life and property, for the destruction and breaking of the slavish ties, and to preserve our posterity from slavery. North-America, as long as the world lasts, can glory, that in her are found such men, as are endued with wisdom, knowledge and bravery, to procure to a numerous nation, and by nature a blessed extensive country, the greatest treasure on earth, I mean liberty, so as to proclaim without fear of the inquisitions, GOD only is our KING!

We have the greatest reason to expect, that by the multitude of friends amongst all ranks of people in the different provinces of the United Netherlands, especially by the open protectors of liberty in the city of Amsterdam and other places that they will over-balance any prejudicial resolutions of such provinces as have not feeling enough to maintain their own liberty, much less that of the North-American States.

A friend to the country observes, that it is a matter much commendable to all merchants of the United States of America, who are trading to Holland, to examine into the characters of their correspondents there, so that the sweet emoluments of trade and commerce should not fall into hands who do not deserve it; as there are as well Tories in Holland, as in America.

On the 24th of August, the brig Amsterdam, an American vessel, commanded by captain Magee, laying at anchor in the Stee, was visited by a Holland admiralty vessel, the officers of which went on board of captain Magee, and the American flag was saluted by them with all honour.

The combined fleets of France and Spain, are composed of 66 ships of the line, besides frigates, bomb ketches and fire-ships, well manned and provided with every necessary: they are in pursuit of admiral Riardy's fleet, composed of 41 ships of the line, besides frigates, who avoid an engagement with such a superior force. They have nevertheless taken four British ships of 64 and 74 guns.

Extra of a letter from a gentleman of undoubted character and veracity, to his friend in this city, dated at Alicante, Sept. 21, 1779.

There are 500 transports ready for sea, on the coast of Brittany, who are to take on board 60,000 choice troops in order to land them in England.

Gibraltar is besieged by 30,000 picked Spanish troops, who are advancing their trenches; the port is also blockaded by a squadron of the