

States; to withstand their hostile efforts this campaign, which I am convinced will be vigorous, and to counteract their insidious offers of reconciliation, it will be absolutely necessary to have a very respectable force in the field this year, and if a right & decisive use is made of y^r Ministers Speech, it will probably much promote the recruiting service among us.

As a word of encouragement ag^t their insidious offers on y^e one hand, and can resist their warlike efforts on y^e other, during the ensuing campaign, I have not y^e least doubt but that they will acknowledge our Independence next winter, or spring, particularly if no alliance between these States or any other European power be concluded on in the interim.

The British Continental Frigate is arrived at Portsmouth in 32 days from France; The Alfred which sailed with her is taken, we have not yet received by this opportunity any dispatches from our Commissioners at Paris, tho I do not yet despair of receiving them, as the Express may be on the road.

The Congress has passed some resolutions on the two draughted Villages to counteract their obvious designs, or at least the possible bad effects,