

NAVAL AND MILITARY
M E M O I R S
OF
GREAT BRITAIN,

FROM
1727 TO 1783.

BY
ROBERT BEATSON, Esq. L.L.D.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

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NAVAL AND MILITARY
M E M O I R S

OF

GREAT BRITAIN,

COMMENCING FROM THE PEACE OF FOUNTAINBLEAU
IN 1762.

1762.

NOTWITHSTANDING the very great success, which had attended our military operations in the course of the last years of the war, the Ministry were far from being popular with the nation in general. A most formidable party in Parliament was now formed against them: and as it was composed chiefly of the old whig families, who had been in power since the accession of the House of Hanover, and whom the people regarded as the guardians of public liberty, impressions were readily received against new men, whom they did not know, and in whom they could not confide. The kingdom was kept in a perpetual ferment, by means of periodical papers and pamphlets, in which the Ministry were plentifully abused, and their conduct represented in the very worst colours. Nor did the sacred person of his Majesty escape a share of the obloquy, which was so copiously bestowed on his servants. In the midst of this torrent of party rage, the Parliament met on the 26th of November; and a formidable opposition was expected, espe-

cially when the subject of the peace should come into discussion. The King in his speech mentioned it in strong terms of praise, and expressed his hope that it would give his Parliament entire satisfaction. The conditions, he affirmed, were such, that there not only was an immense territory added to the Empire of Great Britain, but a solid foundation laid for an increase of trade and commerce; and the utmost care had been taken, to remove all occasions of future disputes between his subjects and those of France and Spain, whereby security and permanency were added to the blessings of peace. His Majesty concluded his speech in the following words:—"We could never have carried on this extensive war without the greatest union at home. You will find the same union peculiarly necessary, in order to make the best use of the great advantages acquired by the peace, and to lay the foundation of that economy which we owe to ourselves, and to our posterity, and which alone can relieve this nation from the heavy burthens brought upon it, by the necessities of this long and expensive war."

The addresses which both Houses returned to his Majesty were replete with duty and loyalty, and gave as hearty an approbation of public measures as the Minister could have wished. The preliminary articles of peace having been by his Majesty's order laid before Parliament, their merits came to be discussed in both Houses on the 9th of December; and, as great debates were expected, an early and full attendance was given. In the House of Lords, the Duke of Newcastle made a long speech against the peace; but the person who assailed it with arguments of the greatest weight was the Duke of Grafton, who was particularly severe against the Minister, as the promoter of what he denominated scandalous and dishonourable terms. The Earl of Hardwicke also took the same side of the question. The Minister and his friends defended the terms of the peace with great ability and coolness; and when the question was about to be put, the Dukes of Cumberland, Devonshire, Grafton, and Newcastle, and the Earl of Hardwicke, finding all opposition in vain, left the House; by which means, the peace

was