

manders a lesson of caution. You know I have been in the habit of filling my sheet with the politics of the day. I have no information but what those useful vehicles the public prints afford. I sometimes give you my own remarks. In opinion relative to this direful war I had the misfortune to be in opposition to all my acquaintance, especially those from Canada; and as the spirit of party has, & still is, uncommonly high & bitter, you may conceive I was a good deal roasted: some advised me as a friend to keep my opinions to myself & indeed, in certain companies it was prudent, others used other [arguments?] of personal risk from informers &c but what I was going to say is that my friends are now coming over to my way of thinking pretending that "to be sure people might have seen, & they always thought so & so." here I am at variance with them again, "no no," say I, gentlemen, do not now come round for I will not let you off so." Man is said to be a thinking animal. nothing is more false, for he is the very reverse, being an *unthinking* animal. We now behold Europe deluged with human blood, torn to its foundation, & every kingdom in it on the point of political dissolution, from the *unthinking* conduct of kings, priests, ministers & people. I think since I wrote last no event of importance has happened on the ocean except the capture of one frigate from the French, & a good many ships from us, about sixty or seventy that we already know of. At land, they are literally driving the armies of all Europe before them: those very armies of whose success in the subjugation of France twelve months ago the most certain hopes, were entertained. Last month was marked by a variety of petty battles, but towards the end of it they appeared to have been only as many pre-[ludes?] to the complete defeat of the allied army under General Clairfait who has been driven across the Rhine with the loss of some accounts say ten & some twelve thousand men, artillery stores & a great deal of baggage. The consequence is the whole country from Aix-La Chapelle to Nimeguen with the cities of Cologne Roermond, Bonn, Cleves &c &c &c are now in the hands of France. Maes-