

from the Colonel's ignorance of the various passes, &c. through the nation; and indeed our gross ignorance of the geography, of the Creek and Cherokee countries, will be the fruitful source of many rebuffs to any army that attempts to reduce them. This I well foresaw several years since, and strongly represented it in my last letter, about two years ago, to Mr. Whitworth, and often used to mention it to Mr. Lyttleton, but not a word has ever been said of it; so that now we have these things to study and to learn by dear blood, which we ought to have known exactly long ago, or at least before we attempted any thing of this kind. It would have been, and still will be, much cheaper for the Government to get capable men to make proper observations upon the rivers, their courses, the passes, mountains, &c. of those countries that are as yet at peace with us, than to have these things to be done by the armies that may soon march for their reduction (for it is not now to be doubted but that all the Southern Nations will engage against us), whose knowledge will always be purchased by the lives of many poor wretches, who must fall in every defile, or difficult pass, through which they must go.

The American war is so far from drawing to a period, that it will just spring up afresh, and much more in favour of the French, than ever; for the number of these Southern Indians is so great that they can want nothing but French officers to ruin Georgia, both the Carolinas, and Virginia, and that in one year.