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long originally lawful, and justifiable, the War truly and properly a Civil War. At length this and the other Colonies were compelled to separate from the British Empire, and to become sovereign and independent States. On that ever memorable and glorious Event the Object of the War was changed, and from that Moment the War became a public War, and all the Rights of an independent Nation then attached to this and the other States in the Union. Permit us to inform your Honours what the late and celebrated Vattel says on this Subject. "Civil War breaks the Bands of Society and Government, or at least it suspends their Influence; it produces in the Nation two independent Parties, considering each other as Enemies, and acknowledging no common Judge. Thus they are in the Case of two Nations, who having a Dispute which they cannot adjust, are compelled to decide it by Force of Arms. Things being thus situated, it is evident that the common Laws of War, those Graces of Humanity, Moderation, &c. are in Civil Wars to be observed on both Sides. If this is not observed, the War will become cruel and horrid; and its calamities will increase on the Parties, therefore, whenever a numerous Party thinks it has a Right to resist, and finds itself able to declare that Opinion sword in Hand, the War is to be carried on between them in the same Manner as between two different Nations; and they are to leave open the same Means of preventing enormous Violence, and restoring Peace. But when a Nation becomes divided into two Parties, absolutely independent, and no longer acknowledging a common Superior, the State is dissolved, and the War, betwixt the two Parties, in every Respect is the same with that of a public War, between two different Nations. The Obligation therefore of observing the common Laws of War is absolute, indispensable to both Parties, and the same to which the Law of Nature obliges all Nations to observe between State and State." — If the Opposition by you therefore, of the Colonies (now United States) from the 19th of April, 1775, to the 2^d of July, 1776, may be properly called a Civil War, we wish to know what Rights the People of America could acquire or be entitled to in Consequence of it. The learned Rutherford informs us, "Nature has made such a Connection between Mankind, as obliges them to abstain from what is productive of Harm to one another, and to do what is productive of mutual Good. This Connection is the Foundation of the Law of Nature which may be traced out from the Principles of Reason. By the Law of Nations is meant such Rules, as Nations or civil Societies are obliged to observe in their Intercourse with one another. The Matter of both these Laws (i.e. the Law of Nature and of Nations) is the same; the Law of Nations, as well as the Law of Nature, considers Mankind as individual Persons; the Law of Nations considers them as formed into collective Persons. Thus the same Law, which is called the Law of Nature, when it is applied to separate and ^{connected} collective Individuals, is called the Law of Nations, when it is applied to the collective Bodies of civil Societies considered as moral Agents, or to several Members of civil Society, considered, not as distinct Agents, but as Parts of those collective Bodies. The Law of Nature is not the only Measure of the Obligations of ^{that} Nations may be under towards one another, they may bind themselves to one another by particular Compacts, or Treaties, to do or to avoid what the Law of Nature has neither commanded nor forbidden, these Obligations arise from immediate and direct Consent, and extend no farther than to those Nations, that by their own Act of immediate