

persons may be of opinion ought to have been buried in oblivion, I beg it may be considered that the present situation of the colonies is very critical to them; that they have no ostensible friend in parliament or representative there, invested with their interests, or acquainted with their past or present affairs; and yet that that honourable body is about to be called on to decide *ex parte* upon a proposed duty, which the colonies *under their present depression* are vitally concerned in and *inadequate to the support of*; that past experience renders it doubtful how far the consequences of a further accumulation of sufferings will be fairly appreciated in the face of a favourite scheme, in the other quarter where they should, but have not always received attention; and that, partly from my own observations and experience, confirmed by the opinion of one far better versed than I am in public documents and intelligence, the officers of the Board of Trade are not acquainted with the facts so essential to be known in order properly to judge of the effects likely to result from the present proposed measure, or the reasoning within the colonies to be expected from it. The foregoing observations are the fruit of a residence of forty-six years, past at frequent recurrences in the now United States, in England, and the colonies, with a continued desire to learn their several interests, which I consider to be inseparable between Great Britain and her colonies. But having in the pursuit of this object been favoured with the means of obtaining, as I think, accurate information, I have expressed my opinion on the subject with a confidence, I trust, not too high, (because all that is past is supportable by proof, and all that is anticipated by the highest probability) and with that unreservedness which the urgency of the case appears to require. Retaining, therefore, as I do, a knowledge of some circumstances and events, not generally possessed by others, but interesting to the colonies and this nation, and having nothing to hope, or to fear, I have made up my mind, though reluctantly, and after long suppression, through your name, Sir, to make these matters public; and leave it to those who have the power, to act in the premises as they see fit.

56. If I am told that I might have made these facts and sentiments privately known to those in power, instead of publishing them to the world; my answer is, that, the cold repulsion of every proposal not made by a person of official rank, is enough to disgust the zeal of *independent* loyalty; but where is the official man that will submit unpleasant truths to the minister on whom he depends for promotion? In the