

cise that right, and that America resisted. In opposition to an unpopular act, they made use of every popular art; and employed language very harmonious to the body of the people. With political sagacity, they represented themselves as contending for the common cause; and turning aside the dagger that was through their sides to stab the constitution of this country. They called upon every Englishman to join them in opposition to so odious a claim; and to feel for fellow-subjects who were labouring to resist an unconstitutional measure. They artfully affected to consider the *act of parliament* as distinct from the *act of the people*; while their friends in this country refined upon their cunning, and distinguished between the *act of parliament* and the *act of the minister*. The plain understanding of an Englishman was not proof against such address, and the nation was much divided upon the justice of their cause. The most violent justified their resistance, and considered them as champions in the cause of liberty; while even the most moderate alleged, it was imprudent in this country to endeavour to enforce a claim, which, whether just or unjust, would certainly never be quietly submitted to.

But the time was come when the contest was to assume another appearance, and the question