

owned, on the other hand, that Franklin's conduct with regard to the letters could not well be defended in the court of honour, though it might be palliated by the patriotic motive; and it was specially offensive to the English gentlemen who though loose in their morals, and often politically corrupt, had still a keen sense of honour. However, it is more than doubtful whether even Franklin's mediation would have been effectual. Samuel Adams and his party, we take it, were resolved from the beginning on Independence. It is unlikely that any concessions would have ultimately availed.

Franklin's own idea of the connection between the Colony and the Mother Country was that it should be one not of dependence but of perfect equality. "An equal dispensation of protection, rights, privileges and advantages is what every part is entitled to and ought to enjoy, it being a matter of no moment to the State whether a subject grows rich and flourishing on the Thames or on the Ohio, in Edinburgh or Dublin." This, Mr. Morse calls a broad and liberal doctrine, and he is sorry that it could be accepted by no Englishman then living. It was however accepted by Adam Smith, who proposed that the Colonies should have a representation, and of course he meant a fair representation, in the Imperial Parliament. The objections to that plan were set forth by Burke, and on no other could there be real equality. If the Imperial Parliament was to be sovereign, it followed that the Colonies must be dependent. On the other hand, were the Colonies to contribute their proportion to Imperial armaments, and to shoulder their share of the debt which had been contracted for joint aggrandizement or defence? If they were not, and if the whole burden was to be thrown on the Mother Country, it could scarcely be said that the Mother Country enjoyed an equality of advantage and protection, 'Colonial self-government has a fair sound, but what does it mean, when carried fully into effect, except that the Imperial Country is to resign all its power and retain the whole of the responsibility? Into this arrangement we have now slid, but had it been definitely proposed a