

they were accustomed to draw from that inexhaustible fount, placed in their neighbourhood by the benevolent Creator.

Another act of your legislature shuts our ports and prohibits our trade with any but those States, from whom the great law of self-preservation renders it absolutely necessary we should at present withhold our commerce.—But this act (whatever may have been its design) we consider rather as injurious to your opulence, than our interest.—All our commerce terminates with you; and the wealth we procure from other nations, is soon exchanged for your superfluities.—Our remittances must then cease with our trade; and our refinements with our affluence.—We trust however, that laws which deprive us of every blessing, but a foil that teems with the necessities of life, and that liberty which renders the enjoyment of them secure, will not relax our vigour in their defence.

We might here observe on the cruelty and ingratitude of those, who, while they publicly brand us with reproachful and unworthy epithets, endeavour to deprive us of the means of defence, by their interposition with foreign powers, and to deliver us to the lawless ravages of a merciless soldiery. But happily we are not without resources; and tho' the timid and humiliating applications of a British ministry should prevail with foreign nations, yet industry, prompted by necessity, will not leave us without the necessary supplies.

We could wish to go no further—and not to wound the ear of humanity, leave untold those rigorous acts of oppression which are daily exercised in the town of Boston, did we not hope, that by disclaiming their deeds, and punishing the perpetrators, you would shortly vindicate the honour of the British name, and re-establish the violated laws of justice.

That once populous, flourishing and commercial town is now garrisoned by an army sent, not to protect, but to enslave its inhabitants.—The civil government is overturned, and a military despotism erected upon its ruins.—Without law, without right, powers are assumed unknown to the constitution.—Private property is unjustly invaded.—The inhabitants daily subjected to the licentiousness of the soldiery, are forbid to remove in defence of their natural rights, in violation of the most solemn compacts.—Or if after long and wearisome solicitation, a pass is procured, their effects are detained, and even those who are most favoured, have no alternative but poverty or slavery. The distress of many thousand people, wantonly deprived of the necessities of life, is a subject on which we would not wish to enlarge.

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