

brought you from the state of merchants. Burn them in effigy, hang their statues, and blast with infamy those malefactors. Your progress since has been inevitable, and necessary to your existence. "To stop is dangerous, to recede is ruin," said Lord Clive at an early stage of our power. We have arrived now at that pitch that we may stop without danger, but we cannot recede without serious consequences. We have been made so strong that the idea of ruin cannot enter into my mind, and we may lose considerable strength without immediately feeling the loss. This, however, does not make it wisdom wilfully and wantonly to incur that loss, and to impair that strength. This does not make it wisdom to give power and resources to those who are our rivals, and will be again, if strengthened, our enemies. I find that I have entered on a subject that is too extensive for the purpose with which I commenced these notes. I repeat, you are, in spite of yourselves, sovereigns, and must be guided by those rules which the wisdom of the world has applied to the government of empires.

I have heard much of the vicious consequences of the spirit of ambition and aggrandisement which has sullied our character; I have heard, I say, much of this, but have seen nothing either of the vicious consequences, or imaginary causes. That our power, reputation, glory, have been aggrandised, I cannot deny. They have been proudly and nobly aggrandised. I have also heard much of a charming notion of keeping our place in India and our tranquillity by a new system of generosity, moderation, and innocence.

This system, literally pursued, would be to give away as much as we can, to keep as little as we can, and to be as weak as we can. This is nonsense. To trust for tranquillity not to our power and influence, but to our moderation and innocence, is pretty in theory, but would be very foolish in practice, particularly applied to Mahrattas. To meet their ambition and enterprise with the language of peace, would be to preach to the roaring ocean to be still. For our security, we must rest upon our strength. Leave us as we are, but do not, by false