

Such are the steps by which a civil war has been kindled in America. To a seditious temper, or any desire of independence, we are not to look for the origin of this calamity; a more cogent reason stares us in the face. He is a bad philosopher—he is a bad politician, or a dishonest man, who seeks for two causes when one is sufficient to produce the effect. The whole body of the Americans have frequently said in general congress, that the exercise of taxation, and the injuries which arose from that source, are the sole cause of their resistance. They declare that they do not wish to become independent. The several provinces declare the same thing, and the individuals in those provinces, in all their harangues, and in all their writings, declare that they covet nothing more ardently than a perpetual union with the parent state. Against this group of evidence, against this full demonstration of the true causes of the present social war, the enemies of America, and perhaps I may say the enemies of Great Britain, are pleased to set up their simple assertion. In the cause of oppression, in the last scene of a gloomy tragedy, in their attempt to distress or extirpate the inhabitants of a great country, they suspect that a generous nation will not follow them; hence they have recourse to fiction and fraud; they would conceal the true cause of the war, and substitute one that never existed. This modern baseless fabric is like the hedging of a gambler; it is a story that may be converted to any use: at present it serves to inflame