

Here one Independent state is supposed to be at war with another; but, upon conviction of the superior power of its antagonist, instead of rushing on to destruction, it proposes a treaty of accomodation, upon such conditions as the situation of affairs would admit of, and as *speedily* as possible. This divine parable instructs us, that when it appears that we are not able, without the utmost hazard, to go forward with any warlike design, the only way is to retreat from it as soon as we can, and secure to ourselves such advantages as may be still in our power. This would shew our wisdom and discretion, were our cause allowed to be ever so just, and had we no peculiar connexion with the power we were disposed to contend with. For it is an eternal maxim, which holds in all cases, that a less evil is to be chosen, when it frees us from a greater. But in our case, where the justice of our cause is at best but *doubtful*; and when the power to be opposed is that, which has cherished us in its bosom, and kindly protected us from our earliest infancy—which we have always heretofore acknowledged our obligations to obey—to which many of us have solemnly sworn allegiance—and which has seldom thwarted our inclinations at all, and never but in matters of comparatively trifling consequence:—In this case, I say, the necessity of such accomodating measures strikes us with still more irresistible evidence.

If those who have been most active among us, in raising seditious tumults, and in filling the country with distraction, will not be persuaded, by the foregoing considerations, to recede, it is hoped that others will; and it would be no small point gained, in favor of the Colonies, if those who are friends to order and government, and enemies to the riots and