

what was the consequence we all know. The strong bulwarks and fortresses of *Canada* were stormed, and the country conquered by the discipline and invincible bravery of but a small part of the British troops.

There is no room to doubt but such an army as was employed in the reduction of *Canada*, would be more than sufficient for the conquest of all the disaffected American colonies, should such a resolution become necessary, in order to reduce them to obedience. For they are open and accessible on every quarter, and have not a single fortress to cover them; nor one regiment of regular troops to defend them; and they are without military stores, without magazines, and without the skill that is necessary for supporting an army. Under such circumstances what would the boasted numbers of our inhabitants avail us against an attack from *Great-Britain*? If an army was sent in upon us, which a body of forty thousand of our militia was unable to withstand (for it is impossible that a greater number of undisciplined men could act to advantage) it would be able to carry desolation through the whole country; and all the men in the colonies, were they firmly united, would not be able to oppose it. But yet, if the army here supposed, should be found unequal to the design of reducing the colonies, *Great Britain* could send of her own troops a second, of equal strength to the assistance of the first; to these she could add a third of *Hessians*, a fourth of *Hanoverians*, and so on till the work were completed. She could easily take possession of all our sea-coasts where our wealth is principally seated, and force us to fly into the back parts of the country for immediate safety. There an army of *Canadian*s might be ordered to meet us, and unnumbered tribes of *savages* might be let loose upon us at the same time, while our lands would lie uncultivated, our stores exhausted, our families unprotected, and those that happened to escape the sword, glittering and flaming both in the front and rear of our settlements, would soon perish by sickness or famine.

All that is here mentioned *Great Britain* is able to do; and all this I believe she *would* do, should she be obliged to enter into a war with the colonies,—provided the Americans had resolution and *firmness* enough (for so some would call it) to hold out to such extremity. But I am too well acquainted with their character to expect that they would prove thus *obstinate* in the day of trial. When they come to find that on their side there can be no prospect of victory, but that every day must deepen their distress and render their condition worse and worse; thei