

Bounties of an enormous value have tempted the manufacturer from his loom, the handicraftsmen from their tools and families, and have given a fatal stab to the true constitutional and political system of raising and disciplining troops in a free and commercial country. Posterity will feel the lavish necessity of this war, and may find it difficult to apply a sufficient remedy to the evil.

This is the present state of the contending powers: when you are called upon to grant your supplies for the succeeding year, You will recollect by what grants and by what expedients this prodigious armament has been brought to such bulk and power; and you will consider maturely, whether it is safe to prolong it, even if the resources of this country should be equal to such a scheme; and whether it may not be fatal to *increase* it.

Is it a trivial vote which confirms this military system for twelve months more, and which gives to the ministers of this country a discretionary power of using this great force against such parts of the empire, as to them appear to deserve or to want coercion? And yet, if you listen with the same patience, and receive with the same credulity, the professions of the men in power, you may perhaps unadvisedly be induced to subscribe with them to a war for another year.

The ministers may perhaps tell you that the East India Company will pay two millions, and that with such assistance no new tax will be necessary. But the contribution from the East India Company has no connection with the war. It is for a renewal of their charter, and must be given to you at all events: surely then a peace with America, the conciliation and return of their affection to this country is a far more desirable object of purchase,