

understandings, and whose minds are open to conviction. People of this character, it is presumed, will see the necessity of giving up the present system of American politics, as essentially wrong and destructive; and of entering unanimously upon moderate and conciliating measures, as they regard the restoration of peace and tranquility in this, heretofore, happy country.

The great object in view, should be a general *American Constitution*, on a free and generous Plan, worthy of *Great-Britain* to give, and of the colonies to receive. This is now become necessary to the mutual interest and honour, both of the Parent Kingdom and its American offspring. Such an establishment is only to be obtained by decent, candid and respectful application; and not by compulsion or threatening. To think of succeeding by force of arms, or by starving the nation into a compliance, is a proof of shameful ignorance, pride and stupidity. All such projects must operate ten times more forcibly against ourselves, than against *Great-Britain*. They are, at best, but *Penny wise*, and *Pound foolish*; and therefore inconsistent with every maxim of sound wisdom and genuine Patriotism.

All violent opposition to lawful authority partakes of the nature of rebellion; and a rebellion of the Colonies, whether it should prove successful or unsuccessful, would necessarily terminate in ruin and destruction. We are now in the utmost danger of being hurried, before we are sensible of it, into this desperate and dreadful state, when most of us think that we have grievances to complain of, in consequence of the exercise of unconstitutional power; and when many are practicing every wicked art to seduce us from our allegiance. It therefore highly concerns us to be upon our guard, at such a critical season as this. A small degree of reflection would convince us, that the grievances in question, supposing them to be real, are, at most, no more than a just ground for a decent remonstrance, but not a sufficient reason for forcible resistance. These two things are widely and essentially different; and if we mistake one for the other, the consequence may be fatal.

It has been fully shewn, that a rebellion of the colonies can have no reasonable prospect of succeeding; and that it must prove the destruction of all that are concerned in it. But supposing that it were likely to succeed, it is of the utmost importance to consider, what we should gain by it; which would be, after the desolation of our country, and the sacrifice of thousands of lives, an exemption from the authority of the British Parliament, and subjection to the authority of an American republic. A blessed exchange this! especially if we take into