

danger, to support the independence of the Country over which their liege Lord presided; enter very little into our notions of freedom on this side of the Atlantic; we look to the substance rather than the sound; and though great sticklers for our rights, while we feel in the Colonies that we are free as the Citizens of America, (and we are so, in every thing, excepting our Commerce,) we do not envy them the mere name of Independent States. If these commercial restrictions were once removed, few, very few, could be found who would wish the inconvenience attendant upon an alteration of our Constitution, merely to exchange the appellation of British Subjects for that of American Citizens, without any real addition to our civil privileges; while the number of those who now feel proud of forming a part of one of the most powerful Empires in the World, would be greatly increased, and the feeling itself would not only become more prevalent but more intense.

I have endeavoured in these observations to bring under consideration a few of those arguments which should induce His Majesty's Ministers to listen favorably to the earnest application of His Majesty's Subjects in the Colonies, to be relieved from those restrictions which depress their Commerce, and prevent them from availing themselves of the advantages which nature has abundantly bestowed upon this portion of the British Empire.

I feel satisfied that the Public will do me the justice to believe, that I am too much of an Englishman in my feelings to wish that the real interest of the Mother Country should be sacrificed to benefit the Colonies: but if my humble efforts can, in any measure, contribute to convince those who preside over the National Councils, that the best interests of British America may be consulted and advanced, not only without injury to the Parent State, but that she would herself participate largely in their prosperity—if I can induce them to believe that Colonies do not necessarily separate from their Mother Country, and that these British Colonies, when relieved from these restrictions, would have many strong reasons to perpetuate their connexion with Great-Britain—that