

ble a part of the British dominions, in order to pave the way to the establishment of it at home. Imputations of this kind were often objected to ministers on slighter foundations; it was their duty to keep their character clear of them, and to stand in as fair a light as possible with a people so suspicious, and so easy to provoke as that of Great Britain.

They had, it was true, long born with the petulance and refractoriness of the Americans; but they were warranted in so doing by the hopes they had formed, that their forbearance would be attributed to the constitutional cause they had mentioned, by those towards whom it was exercised; and that these would be too prudent, to exasperate by their intemperate conduct, a nation of which they made a part, and of which they knew the spirit and power would not bear ill usage unrevenged.

But as the mildness with which they had acted, had been so ill-requited, those who had complained of their tardiness, should now be witnesses that when roused, they could exert themselves with due vigour for the honour and interest of their country. These should be supported in such a manner, as should convince the world, that if Britain took a long time to consider, before she suffered resentment to prevail, yet when it was thoroughly kindled, she was able to make those repent who had dared to provoke her.

The only reason why they had deferred putting forth the full strength of the nation, was that the Americans, by becoming convinced that it was in earnest, might yet have leisure to ponder on the dreadful dangers they would incur by venturing to encounter it: That were they to prove unequal to such a strife, as it probably would happen, they had no further favour to expect, and would no longer be treated as fellow-subjects, but as a conquered