

loved Great Britain with the utmost sincerity; they have wished, and to this hour they continue to wish, that their union with her may be perpetual. While they were required and permitted, like free men, to contribute to the public expences, in men or in money, they did it cheerfully; but the very first explicit attempt to deprive them of that freedom, produced discontent and universal complaints. The nation was soon afterwards blessed with a set of ministers who could listen to the cries of humanity and justice; a public calamity was averted; it was delayed, but not prevented; for a change of ministers produced a second attempt to tax the Americans, and they exhibited new proofs of universal discontent. They complained, they besieged the throne with their petitions, they did every thing that can be done by loyal subjects who have the misfortune to be oppressed. Their prayers were not heard; in vain did they appeal to former proofs of liberality and zeal; in vain did they pray that they might not be degraded below the rank of his Majesty's other subjects in Britain or Ireland; that they might be permitted to judge of their own abilities and dispose of their own property; that they might be governed as they had been for near two hundred years: but times were changed; instead of listening to their reasonings or complaints, new grievances were added; a fleet and army was also sent to reason them into submission. This argument was not conclusive, for the Americans also appealed to the sword: they would rather perish than submit to those *new demands*.

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