

loss and prosper by their adversity. Do the Americans seem ripe for a revolt, merely because they complain of such a grievance? or does it follow that a man is not to be pacified by acts of justice, merely because he resists acts of violence and oppression. So far have the Americans been from complaining without cause, that we have long admired their patience in suffering, their steady perseverance and moderation in complaining. I do not indeed say that the Americans have suffered in proportion to the bitterness of the draught that has been prepared for them: I cannot deny that the guardian angel of that country seems to have been present in the British councils, while the demon of discord was dealing out her potions with an unrelenting hand. She has diluted the poison and saved her country. Our statesmen have listened to the council of Ahithophel; they have added cruelty to oppression, and insult to injury; they have followed one act of tyranny by another, with such hasty steps, that they have saved where they meant to destroy; they have roused the most torpid American, they have informed the most scrupulous casuist.

It being once more determined, in an evil hour, to tax the Americans, though the stamp-act had been repealed, and they being resolved in the most peaceable manner to elude the force of such a tax, by not consuming any article on which it was laid, the measure for some time seemed to be defeated; but it was a favourite measure. A new law was framed, by
which