

that our greatest political happiness must arise from her smiles and fostering protection. We should be fully convinced of this, were it not for our gross ignorance, and want of consideration; and willing to confess it, were it not for our pride. But if we determine to deny her authority, or to question her *right* to command us, she will prove to the world, and bring us to confess, that though she is ancient, she is not superannuated or exhausted; and that she still possesses the spirit and vigour that have animated her best years.

Were she only to do nothing, but barely to leave the colonies to themselves with their jarring principles, and interests, and projects; we should soon see province waging war against province, and our country would be involved in such misery and distress, as are beyond all our present conceptions. Should it be known abroad that *Great Britain* had withdrawn her protection, and would no longer interest herself in our preservation and safety; within the compass of one year our sea-ports would be ravaged, and our vessels plundered or seized as soon as they left our harbours. We should therefore soon feel the necessity of purchasing the protection of some maritime power, and on terms not of our proposing, but of theirs; of a maritime power, which could never be able to secure us against any hostile attempts of *Great Britain*, should she see fit to make any; while she maintains that empire of the sea which she now holds, and of which all the maritime powers of the world are unable to dispossess her.

But, replies the ignorant and deluded American: "Notwithstanding all that can be said of the naval strength of *Great Britain*, it is asserted by our patriotic leaders, and we have reason to think, that these colonies, of themselves, are able to withstand all her force." The judgment of Heaven visibly appears in this dreadful insurrection. It was but a few years ago, that we believed, and found by experience, that the colonies were unable to withstand the militia of *Canada*, supported by a few regiments of regular troops from *France*. That this was the general opinion, most of us may remember; and it is evident from the messages that passed between Governor SHIRLEY and the House of Representatives of *Boston*, from the address of the Assembly of *Virginia* to the King, at the beginning of the late war, and from many other authentic documents of that period. The colonies then humbly and ardently implored that *Great Britain* would speedily step in to their rescue, and preserve them from a destruction that threatened to overwhelm them. Their prayers were soon heard; and what