

public declarations prompted me, the nature of your office in a manner required it. You have been particularly distinguished by a noble emulation for the good of your country, I therefore persuade myself you will not condemn the weakest effort built on that foundation, and aiming principally at the same glorious end. If I have not done this before, inclination was not wanting to urge me; I heard a system adopted which, I was convinced would prove detrimental to my country; I heard of the demolition of the fortifications of *Louisbourg*, a consequence of that system, with the utmost regret; I heard it with the most pungent concern; but then some affairs intervened, which required my absence, at a time when I had just formed an intention of entering the lists as a writer: I therefore hoped some one more disengaged, would have undertook that office; an office, which seemed to me altogether so praise worthy, and even incumbent on every Briton, who regarded his country, and thought as I did. Whence then proceeds my mistake? are the people so prepossessed, or tired of any further discussion? is it from a diffidence of sufficient matter to promote a more nice disquisition? or, is it from the effects of sloth? I am apprehensive, these have all too much co-operated in their turns, to render a design of this nature, if ever such a one was conceived abortive; all future expectations of it seem to have entirely vanished; nor should I now trouble you with this letter, but that the love of my country, regard for you, and particularly the pressing exigencies of the times, conspire and urge me to the task. The rage of war which seems rather to encrease than abate, notwithstanding the continued bad success of our enemies, induces me to take up the pen, and makes me hope that council may be
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