

Yet we cannot but observe, that a British fleet (unjustified even by acts of your legislature) are daily employed in ruining our commerce, seizing our ships, and depriving whole communities of their daily bread. Nor will we regard for your honor, permit us to be silent, while British troops tully your glory, by actions which the most inveterate enmity will not paliate among civilized nations; the wanton and unnecessary destruction of Charles-Town, a large, ancient, and once populous town, just before deserted by its inhabitants, who had fled to avoid the fury of your soldiery.

If you still retain those sentiments of compassion by which Britons have ever been distinguished.—If the humanity, which tempered the valour of our common ancestors, has not degenerated into cruelty, you will lament the miseries of their descendants.

To what are we to attribute this treatment? If to any secret principle of the constitution let it be mentioned—let us learn that the government we have long revered is not without its defects, and that while it gives freedom to a part, it necessarily enslaves the remainder of the empire. If such a principle exists why for ages has it ceased to operate? Why at this time is it called into action? Can no reason be assigned for this conduct? Or must it be resolved into the wanton exercise of arbitrary power? And shall the descendants of Britons tamely submit to this?—No Sirs! We never will, while we revere the memory of our gallant and virtuous ancestors, we never can surrender those glorious privileges, for which they fought, bled, and conquered. Admit that your fleets could destroy our towns, and ravage our sea coasts;—these are inconsiderable objects, things of no moment, to men whose bosoms glow with the ardor of liberty.—We can retire beyond the reach of your navy, and without any sensible diminution of the necessaries of life, enjoy a luxury which from that period you will want; **THE LUXURY OF BEING FREE.**

We know the force of your arms, and was it called forth in the cause of justice and your country, we might dread the exertion.—But will Britons fight under the banners of tyranny? Will they counteract the labours, and disgrace the victories of their ancestors?—Will they forge chains for their posterity?—If they descend to this unworthy task, will their swords retain their edge,—their arms their accustomed vigor?—Britons can never become the instruments of oppression