

might be quoted, if it were thought necessary to cite the decisions of judges for the establishment of doctrines; which, having been interwoven into our constitution, are taught us in our youth and are imprinted on our hearts.

It is nevertheless a very different consideration, with respect to those Colonists; who having achieved the late revolution, by their efforts, now form, by their residence, the citizens of the United States. Rights may be undoubtedly forfeited, though privileges cannot be arbitrarily taken away. A man's crimes, or even misconduct, may deprive him of those immunities, which he might have claimed from birth, or derived from an act of the Legislature: He may be outlawed by the sentence of a court of justice, or he may be banished by the united suffrages of his countrymen. The American citizens, who voluntarily abjured their Sovereign, avowed their design to relinquish the character of subjects: The American citizens, who swore allegiance to the Government of their own choice, thereby declared their election, that they would be no longer connected with a State, which had mortified their prejudices rather than bereaved them of rights: And by that conduct and by those offences the revolted Colonists forfeited to the law all that the law had ever conferred. The American Treaty however acknowledged that avowal: The recognition of Parliament legalized that election. But, whether that act of the British Government, or that act of the British Legislature, ought to