

If we look back to the origin of the present controversy, it will appear that some among us at least have been constantly enlarging their views, and stretching them beyond their first bounds, till at length they have wholly changed their ground. From the claim of Parliament to tax us, sprung the first resistance on our part; before that unjust claim was set on foot, not an individual, not one of all the profound legislators with which this country abounds, ever held out the idea of independance. We considered our connexion with Great Britain as our chief happiness—we flourished, grew rich, and populous to a degree not to be paralleled in history. Let us then act the part of skilful physicians, and wisely adapt the remedy to the evil.

Possibly some men may have harboured the idea of independence from the beginning of this controversy. Indeed it was strongly suspected there were individuals whose views tended that way; but as the scheme was not sufficiently ripened, it was reckoned slanderous, inimical to America, and what not, to intinate the least suspicion of this kind.

Nor have many weeks yet elapsed since the first open proposition for independence was published to the world.—By what men of consequence this scheme is supported, or whether by any, may possibly be the subject of future enquiry. Certainly it has no countenance from the Congress, to whose sentiments we look up with reverence; on the contrary, it is directly repugnant to every declaration of that respectable body. It would be needless to quote particular passages in proof of this, as they are to be met with in almost every page of their proceedings. I will refer to a few only, viz. their Resolves, March 5, 1775—their Declaration, July 6—their Address to the King, July 8—their Letter to the Lord Mayor of London—and more especially their Declaration for a fast, June 12, in which, with the deepest marks of sincerity, they call upon all America to join with them in addressing the great Governor of the world—“ humbly beseeching him to avert  
 “ the desolating judgments with which we are threatened,  
 “ to bless our rightful sovereign, &c.—that so America  
 “ may soon behold a gracious interposition of heaven for  
 “ the redress of her many grievances, the restoration  
 “ of her invaded rights, and reconciliation with the  
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