

During the last winter you exhibited a different kind of proof that you are not to be trusted. On the 20th of February, Lord North moved the following resolution in the House of Commons, viz. "That as soon as
 " the legislative body of any province shall
 " make provision for contributing their proportion to the common defence, and shall
 " engage to provide for the support of civil
 " government in that province ; if such provision shall be approved by his Majesty in
 " Parliament, so long as it shall be made, it
 " may be proper for Parliament to forbear to
 " levy any duty or tax, or to impose any further tax or duty on such province, except
 " for the regulation of commerce." This was called a plan of reconciliation, and strange as it may seem, the very apprehension of peace was like to produce great disorder ; his Lordship was deserted for some time by the household troops, nor did they return to the standard, till they were fully convinced, by a faithful leader, that the motion might be so construed as to mean nothing. With this salvo they suffered it to pass. In their view it was *vox et preterea nihil*. It was a bubble, by which they might amuse this nation ; and it was a trap, in which they might catch the simple Americans. Lest the Americans should not embrace this plan with sufficient eagerness, great care was taken to explain it as a vast concession in their favour. We were taught to believe that whatever sums the American assemblies might *now* offer, if their proposal should