

INTRODUCTION.

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AND surely the Declaration of the *American* Congress is an insult offered to every one who bears the name of *Briton*. For in considering the present contest between Great Britain and America, it is a truth which deserves our peculiar attention; and which therefore cannot be too often repeated, nor too strongly inculcated; that the dispute is not, *nor ever has it been*, between his *Majesty* and the *whole*, or any part, of his subjects. The dispute is *clearly between one part of his subjects and another*. The blow given by the Congress appears indeed to be levelled at his *Majesty*; but the wound was intended for *us*.

The Declaration of the Congress rather levelled against the British subjects than against his Majesty:—as the dispute is not between him and his subjects, but between his British and American subjects.

For let us separate in idea, so far as they *can* be separated, the interests of the King from those of his subjects: And let us, for the sake of argument, suppose—what I trust we shall hereafter most fully disprove,—that the present contest took its rise from a claim set up by Parliament to the exercise of unconstitutional, unprecedented power over the Colonies: What in this case had his Majesty to gain by supporting the claim

The King had no separate interest to serve.

eagerness, and circulated with unremitting labour. Private confidence was violated; even *trust* was committed to get at letters and documents, which, obtained in so base a manner, were first garbled, and in that mutilated state, sent forth into the world as damning proofs of dark designs, which never had been formed. But not a syllable would they suffer to be made public that could tend to the exculpation of the objects of their fury. These were not to be endured if they attempted to justify, scarcely even if they attempted only to deny, the charges. Two men there were and but two †, who dared to exercise, or so much as to avow the intention of exercising their employment with any degree of impartiality. What was their fate? The one saw his house broken open, his papers seized, his implements destroyed, or carried off; both were driven out of the country by actual violence, and the dread of threatened assassination.

† Rivington, and Mien.