

gar passion of a pre-determination against a just conviction, is not surely the characteristic of a lover of reason and truth : and such I take it for granted you are, or the addressing my sentiments to you would be labor knowingly lost. At the same time I am so far from deprecating your scorn and indignation, should you have just cause to think that I am designedly employing those sacred names of reason and truth for covers to sophistry and falsehood, that in that case I bespeak their falling on me with redoubled weight.

And now, without farther preface, allow me to lead you back to that celebrated, or, to express myself with more propriety, to that infamous epoch, when it was impossible to despise more than it deserved, the imbecillity of a ministry, and the consequent damage and dishonor to the nation from the faint, inadequate manner, in which our war was conducted : when to point out the uttermost bathos into which we were sunk, it may suffice to observe that an island, I repeat it, an island, belonging to us a maritime power, indisputably superior in naval strength as well as in many others to our enemy, was shamefully lost, after such  
a precedent