

deprecate delay and procrastination ; it is to beg that whatever you resolve, for war or conciliation, may be immediately resolved. The time is critical and precarious ; the scene fickle and shifting ; a moment gained may be your salvation ; a moment lost, your ruin. A defeat at sea ; a disaster in America ; the accession of new enemies, (not an impossible event) I doubt, may disable you from making war or peace. Even while we are debating, important and precious moments are stealing away,

*Dum loquimur fugerit invida*

*Ætas, carpe diem quam minimum credula postero.*

I thank the House for the indulgence they have shewn me, and I humbly move, Sir,

“ That leave be given to bring in a Bill  
 “ for quieting the troubles now reigning in  
 “ the British Colonies in America, and for  
 “ enabling his Majesty to appoint Commissioners, with full powers to treat, and  
 “ conclude upon terms of conciliation with  
 “ the said Colonies.”