

gratitude on the sanction you have given, Gentlemen, to this assertion, by having, after those favours from the Crown, elected me with uncommon marks of your approbation.

Conformable to the principles I have stated, notwithstanding my general support of administration, I had found myself obliged sometimes to oppose the measures of the Court; particularly in the debates upon the Convention relative to Falkland's Island; upon the proceedings relative to the Caribbees; and upon the perpetuity of Mr. Grenville's bill. In the motion I made for the committee of enquiry into the state of the India Company, and through the whole progress of that long business, I acted without the participation of the Ministers; and such accidents of separation had arisen between Lord North (the supposed leading Minister) and me, that, although I bore respect to his character, no two persons, not in direct enmity, could live at a greater distance. Such was my political situation when I was called to the American service in the year 1775.

It is known to those who employed me, and I have often declared it in public, that I was involuntarily called to it. I was not without professional reasons for wishing to decline it; but I had many others, arising from such personal circumstances as most naturally and strongly affect the human mind—They are not unknown to you.

B 2

I stated