

ment of hostilities to the present moment; and such, Mr. President, would be *mine*, if I thought *liberty* could be produced by unexampled acts of cruelty and oppression; *wealth* could flow from accumulated debts and increasing taxes; *plenty* from desolation; glory or advantage from a *war* with Great Britain; or *that* independence which a *true* friend to America would desire, from our *alliance* with France.

Or if I could be such a traitor to my country, as to clothe the most sordid avarice, ambition, and self interest, in the *specious* garb of patriotism as a member of *this assembly*, “ my voice would be *still* for war; with the dark soul, and the dissembled treachery of Sempronius,

“ I’d bellow out for freedom and my country.

“ And mouthe at Cæsar till I shake the senate.”

It is by no means clear to me, that we could have derived any solid benefit from independence, which we did not enjoy while subjects to the British government, even if we could have obtained it by *treaty*, when we first took up arms to demand it; to gain it by force of arms would have been still *less* to our advantage, could we have obtained it without foreign assistance; and instead of diminishing, must greatly have *increased* our taxes, as the event has too fatally proved. But I could weep tears of mingled grief and  
rage,