

once more be received into the bosom of a parent and protector who is so capable of fostering their enterprize and defending them from all external outrage. The present is not a time of meditation, but of action; not of promises, but of performance. Colonies have been represented as the wings of the parent state, and which, if injured or neglected, must, instead of strengthening, enfeeble the whole body. But as this is a maxim which has seldom been acted upon, the consequences have too frequently been fatal. Let us endeavour to avoid such consequences in future. The settlement of colonies, in all ages, but especially the proper management of them, has been attended with the happiest results to mankind. It is by them that the world has been peopled: it is by them that liberty of person and action and property have been secured to mankind; it is by them that laws have been promulgated and established; it is by them that navigation was discovered, and rendered not only the most beautiful and useful of all sciences, but the wonderful art by which new worlds have been discovered; it is by them that commerce has been extended, and rendered subservient to the comforts and enjoyments of society; it is by them that all the sciences have been established on their present splendid basis: by them the fine arts were made to enlighten the darkest and most savage corners of the earth; by them man, from being the wildest and most vicious of animals, has been tamed, civilized, and brought back to the image of his God! From them cities, kingdoms, and empires have risen in the place of huts, of caves, and of wigwams; by them the earth has been cultivated, and the produce of the soil rendered the surest means of subsistence and social happiness. It therefore peculiarly becomes the wisdom and generosity of governments, like our own, who are sincerely desirous of improving the condition of mankind, to take away from the colonies that brand of degradation and subjection by which they have hitherto been characterized. Some will tell us it is impossible that this can ever be the case without jeopardizing the dependency of the colonies upon the mother country. But this is no less a precipitate than an inconsiderate view of the subject. Whatever those may be, let the language, the laws, the political institutions, the privileges, and the security of person and property of the parent state be extended to the colonies, and it will soon be seen that it is possible for them to enjoy an equality of rights without forfeiting either their allegiance or dependence. Except what nature and climate may conspire to constitute, let there be no political or moral distinction betwixt the colonist and the native born subject: let their interests of whatever