

as we doubted not we should, a full establishment of our rights, it depended wholly on their choice, whether they would participate with us in those blessings, or still remain subject to every act of tyranny which British ministers should please to exercise over them.

They were told to urge all such arguments as their prudence suggested to enforce our opinion concerning the mutual interests of the two countries, and to convince them of the impossibility of the war being concluded to the disadvantage of the colonies, if we wisely and vigorously cooperated with each other. To convince them of the uprightness of our intentions towards them, they were to declare that it was the inclination of congress that the people of Canada should set up such a form of government as would be most likely, in their judgment, to promote their happiness. And they were, in the strongest terms, to assure them that it was our earnest desire to adopt them into our Union as a sister colony, and to secure the same system of mild and equal laws for them and for ourselves, with only such local differences as might be agreeable to each colony respectively.

They were to assure the Canadians that we had no apprehension that the French would take any part with Great Britain; but that it was their interest, and we had reason to believe, their inclination, to cultivate a friendly intercourse with these colonies.

From this and such other reasons as might appear most proper, they were charged to urge the necessity the people were under of immediately taking some decisive step to put themselves within the protection of the United Colonies. For expediting such a measure, they were to explain our method of collecting the sense of the people and conducting our affairs regularly by committees of observation and inspection in the several districts, and by convention and committees of safety in the several colonies. These modes were