

cessful, would necessarily terminate in ruin and destruction. We are now in the utmost danger of being hurried, before we are sensible of it, into this desperate and dreadful state ||, when most of us think that we have grievances to complain of, in consequence of the exercise of unconstitutional power; and when many are practicing every wicked art to seduce us from our allegiance. It therefore highly concerns us to be upon our guard, at such a critical season as this. A small degree of reflection would convince us, that the grievances in question, supposing them to be real, are, at most, no more than a just ground for decent remonstrance, but not a sufficient reason for forcible resistance. These two things

|| Among the various denominations of Americans, most men would be startled and shocked at the proposal of entering into an open *rebellion*; but seditious principles, that directly lead to, and must finally bring on, a rebellion, have been gradually instilled into many of them, without alarming their apprehensions, under the cover of fair and specious pretences. Wrong principles are naturally productive of wrong conduct; and one wrong step prepares the way to another, and that to another, till at last there can be no retreating.

*Nemo repente fit turpissimus, i. e.* No one arrives at a gross and enormous pitch of wickedness at once, is an old and just observation; and it is particularly true with regard to *rebellion*. The grand English rebellion, in the last century, was a remarkable proof of it. In the first place, men gave way to unfavourable suspicions concerning the King and his Ministers, and thus lost the reverence that is due to the regal authority. They then began to take pleasure in blackening the King's character, and in giving an invidious turn to all his actions. From thence they proceeded to *caballing* against him; and, at last, they took up arms, deluded with the pretence of liberty and property, and religious rights. And when they had once taken up arms against their Sovereign, they found it necessary to destroy him, for their own security. This soon brought on a general destruction of liberty and property, and the ruin of the nation, as well as of themselves. Such is the common progress, and the effect, of rebellions in general.