

or diversion. As to a Continental war, I never wish to see us engaged in it; and, therefore, never can think it expedient to provide for it. Besides, if America has a mutual interest with this country in the West-India islands and our fisheries, and provides her proportion for the defence of them, the interests of the two countries will still be more closely united, and neither England nor America will dare to allow each other to be molested by foreign powers, without running the risque of ruining their interest in those valuable possessions. But it may be said by America, that if she shall be injured in her property by foreign nations, the King of Great Britain, by not declaring war, may avoid avenging her injuries for the sake of sparing Great Britain. To this I would answer first of all; the American Council will always have it in their power to represent the affairs of America, and it would be an odious measure for Britain to refuse their assistance upon a proper representation. In the next place, it is the interest of Great Britain to assist America in every such case, for the same reason that it is the interest of America to assist Great Britain. The enemies of both will, by depredations upon the nation that shall incline to be neuter, force them to defend themselves.

The Americans might farther say, Why may we not have a share, at least, in the power