

and correspondences settled, in such a manner, that the *West-Indies* may be nearly as well supplied without our assistance, as they now are with it; and with some articles, perhaps better.

But supposing the contrary; yet what should we gain by this curious bargain? Why, the ill-will and resentment of all the *West-Indians*. For some years past, they have cultivated a peculiar friendship with the North-American Colonies, and proposed to themselves much happiness from a closer alliance.

They have sent hither their children, in large numbers, for their education: and many of them have brought over their families, and liberally spent the incomes of their estates among us. But when they find that, we can so ingeniously contrive schemes to distress them without benefiting ourselves; as they are generally not wanting in spirit, they will be apt to resent such ill usage, by withdrawing their sons and their families from among us, and perhaps by breaking off all further connexion with us in the way of commerce.

From what has been said, it will naturally be concluded, that by a general non-importation agreement we shall carry on a very unequal warfare with Great-Britain; which will much sooner compel us to yield, than her to comply. The want of her North-American trade may hurt her, but it will not reduce her to extremity; and, if I may judge from my own feelings, nothing but the utmost extremity will induce her, where she believes she has right of her side, and where her honour is deeply at stake, to give up the point in dispute.

At the time of our former non-importation, the case was materially different. The *Stamp-act* was so contrary to all our ideas of American rights, and so much was offered against the policy of the act, both here and at home, that there was no difficulty in repealing it. Afterwards when we exclaimed against the duties imposed upon paper, glass, &c. and agreed not to import the several articles loaded with duties; our views were comparatively moderate, and we had a large body of friends in England to support us. And were the proposition now only not to import, or to consume the tea that is charged with the duty; the case would be the same that it was then—we should have the same friends that we then had—and the duty would probably be removed, on the same principle that those duties then were. But our conduct now is so wild and distracted—our tumults and disorders are carried to so unreasonable and unwarrantable a length—nay, such a spirit of rebellion has broke forth among us, and such a determined enmity against the *supremacy* of Great-Britain now predominates in the Colonies, that we have