

any warlike design, the only way is to retreat from it as soon as we can, and secure to ourselves such advantages as may be still in our power. This would shew our wisdom and discretion, were our cause allowed to be ever so just, and had we no peculiar connexion with the power we were disposed to contend with. For it is an eternal maxim, which holds in all cases, that a less evil is to be chosen, when it frees us from a greater. But in our case, where the justice of our cause is at best but *doubtful*; and when the power to be opposed is that, which has cherished us in its bosom, and kindly protected us from our earliest infancy — which we have always heretofore acknowledged our obligations to obey—to which many of us have solemnly sworn allegiance—and which has seldom thwarted our inclinations at all, and never but in matters of comparatively trifling consequence:—In this case, I say, the necessity of such accomodating measures strikes us with still more irresistible evidence.

If those who have been most active among us, in raising sedition, tumults, and in filling the country with distraction, will not be persuaded, by the foregoing considerations, to recede, it is hoped that others will; and it would be no small point gained, in favor of the Colonies, if those who are friends to order and government, and enemies to the riots and disturbances of abusive mobs, would assume the courage openly to declare their sentiments. All those who are still loyal to their sovereign, should do the same. His Majesty's good subjects of the town of Rye*, to their lasting honour, have set the example. Not only their names, but their numbers, are very respectable; and, were the example to be followed, through all the towns and districts of our several Colonies, I doubt not but it would appear, to the confusion of some among us, that, in every province, there are more than seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee, and who will not bow it, to the *Baal* of independency. And I now congratulate all such on the pleasure of finding, from the information of Gentlemen of unquestionable veracity, that the *Resolvers* from Georgia were far from expressing the *sense of the inhabitants* of that grateful and loyal Province; but that they were framed only by a company of hot-headed fellows, met together in a tavern †.

I will only observe farther on this subject, that all who have the courage now to declare themselves friends to Government, will undoubtedly think themselves bound in honour, interest and

* See Mr. RIVINGTON's *Gazetteer* of October 13.

† RIVINGTON's *Gazetteer*, ut sup :

conscience,