

ed : surrounded with the blessings of peace, health, and never-failing plenty---enjoying the benefits of an equitable and free constitution---secured by the protection and patronage of the greatest maritime power in the world---and contributing, in but a small proportion, to the support of the necessary public expences. Under these advantages, the colonies have hitherto flourished beyond example. They have become populous, both by natural increase, and the yearly influx of foreigners, the sure indications of a happy country ; and they have become rich, by practicing, at their ease, the peaceful arts of agriculture and commerce. And were they to pursue the same path which has brought them thus far, there is no doubt but they would go on to flourish and prosper in the same proportion, till, in process of time, they would excite either the admiration or envy of the whole human race.

But a far different prospect, at this time, presents itself to view. The darkness of a rising tempest is beginning to overspread our land. The thunder roars at a distance, and appears to be swiftly approaching. It is high time therefore to awaken the thoughtless to a sense of their danger, and to think of providing for our common safety.

There is, there can be, but one way to prevent the ruin that threatens us. Our own misconduct has brought it forward ; and our immediate reformation must stop its progress. He must be blind, that is not convinced of this ; and he must be infatuated, that will pursue the road, which evidently terminates in darkness and destruction.

Whether the British Parliament has been right or wrong in its late Proceedings, towards the Colonies ; our own behaviour has been such as every government must and will think intolerable. If the supreme power of any kingdom or state, through want of due information or attention, should adopt measures that are wrong or oppressive, the subjects may complain and remonstrate against them in a respectful manner ; but they are bound, by the laws of Heaven and Earth, not to behave undutifully, much more not to behave insolently and rebelliously. The bands of society would be dissolved, the harmony of the world confounded, and the order of nature subverted, if reverence, respect, and obedience, might be refused to those whom the constitution has vested with the highest authority. The ill consequences of open disrespect to government are so great, that no misconduct of the administration can justify or excuse it.

The voice of complaint, to call it no worse, is now heard through every corner of our land ; and we are daily exhorted to prepare