

ated by resentment and indignation, which are but transitory and galling ties, than by the sober well-weighed principles of a natural and permanent union? All these considerations seem to evince, that an eternal divorce from the capital would be a great and grievous misfortune to the English colonies.

One may go a little farther, and assert, that were it in the power of the European nations who reign in the new world to bring about this great revolution, it would not be their interest to wish it. This may be a paradox, perhaps, in the eyes of those states who see their colonies continually menaced by an invasion at their doors. They conclude, no doubt, that if England was not so strong in America, they would there enjoy in peace, those riches, which she envies and often ravishes from them. It cannot be denied that England derives the influence she is mistress of, especially in the new world, from the extent and population of her northern colonies. It is they who put it in her power to attack at all times, with advantage, the isles and the continent of other nations, to conquer their lands or to ruin their commerce. But let it be considered that this crown hath, in the other quarters of the globe, interests which may run counter to her progress in America, which may hamper or retard her enterprizes there, which may annihilate her conquests by the necessity of restitutions.

Cut the knot which ties old Britain to the new; soon would the northern colonies alone possess more force than they have now united to the mother-country. This vast continent set loose from every convention in Europe would enjoy the liberty, the command of all her own movements. It would then become a measure of equal importance and facility for her to seize those lands whose treasures might supply what the mediocrity of her own productions denies her. Her independent position would enable her to complete the preparations for invasion,

200

D

before