

the true causes of their taking up arms, and such are the reasons why you may be assured they will never disarm, while the British councils are directed by the authors of so much injustice and cruelty. In the mean time, though I am confident that I have pointed out the true source of the present civil war in America, I beg it may be noted, that I shall not take the future conduct of the Americans for any proof of their original intention; on the contrary, as their temper and conduct must ever be formed and regulated by the treatment they receive, I firmly believe that they are already so far alienated, and their indignation so perfectly roused by the late measures of government, that you are in a fair way to lose them for ever. You are pleased to suppose that the Americans have long sought for a state of independence, but they may be compelled by vigorous measures to submit to your discipline; on the other hand, I am fully persuaded that the desire of independence was foreign from their hearts, but your *vigorous* measures will drive them to that refuge, and will, if continued, compel them to remain an independent state. This, however, is an opinion in which I have the misfortune to differ from your Lordship, and may continue to differ, till heaven has been pleased to restore or destroy this empire. In the mean while you will give the Americans leave to say, that *hitherto the Lord hath helped them*. From the beginning of this dispute the spirit of wisdom has forsaken your councils, you have been disappointed in every measure,