

which must attend our perseverance in *the war against America* does not come within the compass of my intention ; and would add no other force to the argument, than by proving our state to be desperate, if we proceed as we have done—the *necessity* and not the justice of peace would bind you to the acceptance of it.

Under a deep impression of the destructive effects of civil contest with America, your attention will be called towards a subject, in some of its circumstances bearing so near a resemblance to the original causes of dispute between Great Britain and the Colonies, that it will be unpardonable if you do not collect some useful hints from what has passed, which, when seriously considered, may decide upon the case now before you.

You are called upon by the Irish nation to give them a free trade—You are informed of this demand by the unanimous vote of the House of Commons in Ireland, the representatives of that people, who declare, that nothing short of a free trade will enable them to live as a free people, or to support their proper rank and place amongst the component parts of the British Empire.

It were to be wished, that previous to this proper and constitutional representation, speculative politicians had not stepped in to anticipate not only the claim of these our fellow subjects, but very largely and forcibly to insist upon *their right to it*, without any representation or any claim.

Arguments drawn from speculation serve very often to illustrate subjects in their nature far removed from the public or general notice of mankind. Speculation assists the investigation of principles, religious, moral, and political : but when speculation and abstract reasoning are applied to