

intercourse with foreigners. Wherever they now choose to go, they carry along with them the very same privileges which are allowed to the natives of the Old Country, and like them reap all the benefit of treaties made between foreign nations and England. Thus they are as truly members of this powerful empire as we in Scotland are, and they can no more be oppressed or molested by any other nation than we can be. Meanwhile, they enjoy all the other advantages of Englishmen, without being called upon to share almost any of their burdens. The weight of taxation in every one of the British Colonies, is less than in any of the United States; while the whole expense of the general defence, and especially that of creating and maintaining a navy, and keeping up a series of powerful fortresses, is paid by England without our demanding any contribution from them.

The revenues which the Colonies derive from foreign trade, are applied by their own legislatures to the internal improvement of the respective provinces;—whereas, were they to become members of the American Confederacy, all such duties would be subjected to the control of the Congress at Washington—and every improvement then made, would be at the expense of direct taxation, from which they are now exempt. They should recollect, also, that in the event of a separation,