

I take a short view of what has already been effected by the American controversy, and hazard a few conjectures concerning its progress ; they shall be conjectures founded on some information which I presume you have not received. After all the evidence that has been adduced on this subject, I am certainly justified in saying, that your repeated endeavours to tax the Americans without their consent, has been the sole cause of the present war. To repel that tax and the cruel means of enforcing it, they have taken up arms. You say the tax was trifling, too small a cause to produce such great effects—you never intended to oppress the Americans—you expected no great supplies from them—your chief object was to establish the authority of Parliament. The Americans have no confidence in such declarations ; if the tax was too small for them to resist, it was also too small for you to claim at so great an expence ; the more zealous you have been in prosecuting that measure, the more cogent was the proof that your small tax would soon become a grievous burden. It was not to be supposed that for a mere bubble, for the name of power which you had no intention to exercise, you should persevere, year after year, to harass your fellow subjects at the expence of millions, loss of much trade and hazard of the empire. Let us speak it out. The Americans say there is such an opposition between your words and actions that you are not to be trusted ; they have experienced such a want of candor and want of humanity in