

all those whom they suspected to waver in their attachment to the republican system. For this reason they required all individuals to produce certificates that they had sworn fidelity to the state.

In the mean time, as the publications among the Colonists teemed with reproaches of the most arbitrary and merciless intentions on the part of Britain, should her arms reduce them to obedience, it was judged highly proper to contradict them in a public and solemn manner. To this purpose a proclamation was issued by General Robertson, newly appointed Governor of the Province of New York, wherein he strove by a variety of arguments and motives, drawn up with equal strength and elegance of language, to convince the Colonists that the disadvantageous representations of the designs of Great Britain were suggested by the malice and interested views of ambitious and artful individuals, and that it was her sincere desire to compass a re-union of America by a liberal compliance with all the demands she could form for the security of her liberties.

But whatever pains were taken to induce the Americans to conceive more friendly ideas of the policy of Great Britain, those who took up the pen on the side of Congress, were no less industrious in describing the situation of Britain to be such, as to justify the persuasion of those who looked upon her as driven by her distresses to make the concessions she was holding forth to the Americans.

She was represented as standing alone, abandoned and unpitied by the world, left to suffer the punishment due to her avarice and her ambition, and pronounced entirely deserving of the calamities under which she laboured. Her memorials and remonstrances, which were formerly wont to command such respect and attention, were now treated with neglect and contempt, and exposed her to derision,