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my friends:—If you can satisfy yourself with pot luck, with water, Canadian cider or beer—accompanied by conversation full of indignation, if perhaps politics, either Whig or Tory, come in question; full of gaiety if the subject be light; the greatest variety we can find on times present or past, or whatever comes into our heads; then come and dine with me—but no wine! (*A laugh, and a cry of "That's right."*) At first this departure from received usage was somewhat embarrassing, but I have already learned in eight days that we get accustomed to nothing easier than to stick to our resolution when we are convinced that we are acting well. (*Cheers*). To increase our flocks, that we may have more wool; our cattle to eat them; to manure the land; to tan more leather, and to have more mechanics to work up a greater quantity of produce; to sow more flax, for the purpose of having more linen, and of usefully occupying, during the long winter, our industrious and handsome countrywomen, whilst they gaily sing at their loom, and are helping us to free the country from arbitrary taxation; all that can be very soon obtained in this country if those we present will it. (*Cries of "aye, aye."*) In other countries, other men as good as we, but no better, will do as much. Let us not mind timid men, whom every novelty frightens; egotists, whom the lightest sacrifice appears impracticable; frivolous men, who live but for their pleasures; or men sold to power, who never distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate exercise of authority: who are thankful when it gives them a kick behind, because it did not give it to them in front. We are not made to proceed with any of these men, or like them. Let us begin our Association. It will be stronger: the second year the first month, and more so every year. We are taken somewhat by surprise. We are not so well prepared to meet the revenue as the parties interested are ready to plunder it. Honest men never suspect all that wicked men do. The moment the Commission is made public, it must have its effect on the Ministry, after having been so indiscreet a step as that of

naming a Commission, the appointment of which was an insult to the Representation of the country, would be bound to follow their most senseless recommendations in order not to expose themselves to the sarcasms which their fantastical choice was adapted to provoke, if in consequence of the incoherence of the Commissioners' ideas, and the ill-disguised disagreement which existed between them, the Minister should permit himself to drop a word of censure on them. All the refusals of reform recommended by the trio do not, therefore, surprise me. The spoliation of the public revenue, recommended by men, two of whom are ignorant, and the third, although instructed, appeared to all those who knew him as having the head a little cracked, is somewhat unexpected. The consequence is, that at first there are many articles of necessity which cannot be procured by smuggling, and which it will be necessary to procure by regular importation. But smugglers will come to us in a few weeks. We will be under no necessity of going to them. American cotton, and leather, raw and manufactured; tea, coffee, tobacco, and a thousand different articles, French books, and German linens, will be found, if we will prefer them, on the counters of merchants, without having paid any custom-house duties. The smuggler knows more about it than we. Whilst he is occupying the attention of the custom-house officer in examining a bale of trifling value, in order to pay the duties, he will always find means to run several others behind his back without paying duty. The non-consumption of taxed products cannot be sudden nor general, but if it becomes systematic, and determined on, as our rights, our honor, and our interest demand, it will extend gradually more and more, with sufficient rapidity to punish and humiliate our persecutors. You have for a great many years signed petitions to the King, to the Lords and to the Commons, in which, enumerating your past services for the defence of the province in time of war, you demanded security for your lives and your rights in time of peace. You have no more security for any thing whatsoever, the moment the parliament permits its meddling on your laws which you respect, not