

what we have in vain endeavoured to force them with the sword ; if our design is at the bottom no deeper or no better than under the colour and the cover of negotiating and by the means of certain English arts of bribing, of corrupting, of holding forth personal or provincial advantages to make some weak attempts for the disjoining and the dividing those ; whom our own acts and our own measures have most strongly united and cemented. What a poor, pitiful, cobweb policy and having in it, full as little strength, as honesty ; are all such methods ? The Americans will in that case baffle or avoid our artifices even with more facility ; than they have restrained and resisted our arms. Our commissioners had much better be content at home than to expose us and themselves beyond the Atlantic ; if such only are to be their errand and their instructions.

It may here be repeated ; let us nevertheless draw nearer to the very terms of reconciliation : but I must again ask ; why do not the proper persons inquire after them at Philadelphia ; where men are met qualified and commissioned to answer any due

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question