

so deeply rooted in the dispositions of the inhabitants, that numbers of them were daily offering their property to sale on the best terms they could find, in order to quit that Province. But as many of these were largely indebted to British subjects, a proclamation was issued by Lord Cornwallis, prohibiting the disposal of property, and the removal of individuals, without a special permission first obtained.

The loyal party in North Carolina, encouraged by the successes of the British arms, began now to meditate an insurrection in their favour; but they were so narrowly watched, that they found it impossible to carry such a design into any effectual execution. Hurried by their impatience, and prompted by the severe treatment they experienced, a considerable number of them rose tumultuously, and without the previous formation of any plan of acting; the consequence of which was, that they were quickly suppressed, and compelled to consult their safety by making the best of their way to the British quarters.

The attention of Congress was now seriously turned to the recovery of South Carolina; the importance of which was now the more felt from its unexpected loss. Large detachments of regulars were collected from every quarter whence they could be spared, and dispatched with all speed to reinforce the troops remaining in the vicinity of that Province: Virginia and North Carolina, which were most interested, as being nearest the scene of danger, exerted themselves with great vigour. Virginia in particular, in order to act with the greater celerity and effect, invested the Governor appointed by their new constitution, with absolute power during the recess of their Provincial Assembly. This was the first act of the kind that had taken place in any of the United States; it was probably suggested by the
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