

and attached population as the Colonial would insure for the raising of additional forces and acquiring additional power of resistance? Is there not confidence in the Colonists that they will discharge the duties, and fulfil zealously the responsibilities, that will devolve on them when admitted to their just and equal rights including in these a fair share of the government of that ancient and loyal Empire whose honour, and strength, and union they, like ourselves, fondly and proudly seek to maintain and promote?

To illustrate by fresh cases, is it reasonable, is it prudent, to part with any portion of the British territory—for instance, a naval station like the Gambia, which the Cape route, likely to become again our most reliable one to the East, renders, some tell us, invaluable—without consulting the Colonists, not even those whose trade with the Mother Country is conducted along its shore? Or to prosecute the great work of devising a naval and military system, and making and manning fortifications (that are demanded by threatenings, whose origin, ground, and motives, being imperial and national, are as much their concern as ours), without affording them the means and the satisfaction of jointly deliberating on, directing, and influencing the nature and extent of these defences, and the decision of such a question as peace or war?

Is the Empire to be bereft of its most populous and populeable parts because the rulers of the United Kingdom have other cares to occupy their minds? Is no endeavour to be made to avert the evil? When will there be a more convenient season?