

ness of the Americans, but he claims that the lawlessness, however reprehensible, is not due to any double dose of original sin, but is like the wild words used against them in England, the result of the heated and unnatural condition of the body politic. On 9th January, 1770, in his first speech in the House (Chat. Corr. iii, 369 sq.), he uttered words of calm wisdom, which throw a light on his character differing greatly from our usual idea of the headstrong, impetuous, unhesitating man of genius:

"I profess myself entirely ignorant of the present state of America, and therefore I shall be cautious of giving any opinion of the measures fit to be pursued with respect to that country. It is a maxim which I have observed through life, when I have lost my way, to stop short, let by proceeding without knowledge, as I fear a noble Duke has done, from one false step to another, I might wind myself into an inextricable labyrinth, and never be able to recover the right road again. As this House has as yet no materials before it by which we may judge of the proceedings of the colonies, I strongly object to our passing the heavy censure upon them, which is contained in the word *unwarrantable* contained in the proposed address. . . . I reserve myself to give my opinion more particularly upon this subject, when authentic information of the state of America shall be laid before the House; declaring only for the present, that we should be cautious how we invade the liberties of any part of our fellow-subjects, however remote in situation, or unable to make resistance. Liberty is a plant which deserves to be cherished; I love the tree, and wish well to every branch of it. Like the vine in the Scripture it has spread from east to west, has embraced whole nations with its branches, and sheltered them under its leaves."

That without willing and glad co-operation, paper bonds are of little avail, is one of the platitudes which men are constantly forgetting. In former years, in the debate on the repeal of the Stamp Act, when George Grenville tried to entangle him in a discussion on virtual representation, in a comparison between the colonies and the former Palatinates of Chester and Durham, Pitt brushed it away with one sweep of his arm: "I come not here, armed at all points, with law cases and acts of Parliament, with the statute book doubled down in dog's-ears,