

I have no hesitation, therefore, in asserting, that if these Colonies are properly cherished, they will soon be peopled by a hardy race whom the American Government would not find it easy to overcome.

Admitting that the Colonies would not be disposed to dissolve their connection with Great-Britain, if freed from the Commercial Restrictions, and that the United States would be unable to compel them to do so, it may still be asked what inducement would Great-Britain have to retain them, if she abandoned the privilege of restricting their Commerce to herself.

This is indeed a most important question, for if we are not worth keeping, except upon terms on which we are not desirous to be kept, the seeds of discord are too deeply sown to enable the most ardent lover of peace to extirpate them.

I trust, however, it may be proved, not only that the retention of these Colonies would be desirable for Great-Britain, if she relinquished the restriction of their commerce to herself, but that the extension of their Commerce to other Countries would eventually prove more beneficial to her than a perseverance in the present system of restriction.

I will not deny that the abandonment of that system, would prove in some measure injurious to the individuals immediately concerned in supplying the Colonies with such articles of foreign produce as they can now only procure through the medium of a British Merchant, but I contend, that though these individuals might be injured, the inhabitants of the Mother Country at large would be benefitted by any measure that enriched the Colonies.

If a rich man is a better customer than a poor one, so is a rich country: the wealth which the Inhabitants of the United States have acquired since they have had the privilege of an unrestricted commerce, has rendered their trade of much more value and importance to Great-Britain, than it was while restricted to herself; it is true, that political motives, by which Colonies would not be actuated, induce the Government of that Country to encourage speculators to establish domestic Manufactories, but centuries must probably elapse before America will be sufficiently populous to rival Europe in any