

continuance. They esteemed Great Britain as a parent, they loved her with more than filial affection; they loved every thing that was British; they were to a man zealously attached to his Majesty, if we except a few individuals who migrated to that country in the year forty-five. What could tempt such people to become independent? We have generally supposed that it is more safe, as well as more honourable to be a member of a great empire than of a small one; not that I believe the Americans, as a separate state, have ought to fear from any of the most formidable nations in Europe; but no man would stand alone in a severe contest, who might have a powerful support; and to my certain knowledge the Americans have vainly flattered themselves with perpetual peace, apprehending that by their assistance Great Britain would soon become such a dangerous adversary, that no foreign state might provoke her with safety. In this manner I should have supposed the Americans would reason, and in this manner I know they generally have reasoned concerning their connection with Great Britain; but lest I should be charged with partial judgment or dealing in conjectures, let us hear the general voice of America. I shall not trouble your Lordship by repeating their numerous declarations on this subject, from the beginning of the controversy; I shall confine myself to their latest publications, such as have been made since the destruction of the peasants at Lexington; since General Gage began to waste and
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