

by which the united applications of his faithful colonists may be improved into a happy and permanent Reconciliation. We are willing to treat on such terms as can alone render an accommodation lasting, and we flatter ourselves, that our pacific endeavours will be attended with a removal of the troops, a repeal of those laws, of the operations of which we complain on the one part, and a dissolution of our army and commercial associations on the other.

Yet conclude not from this, that we propose to surrender our property into the hands of your ministry, or vest your parliament with a power which may terminate in our destruction.—The great bulwarks of our constitution we have desired to maintain by every temperate, by every peaceable means; but your ministers, (equal foes to British and American freedom) have added to their former oppressions, an attempt to reduce us by the sword to a base and abject submission. On the sword therefore we are compelled to rely for protection. Should victory declare in your favour, yet men trained to arms from their infancy, and animated by the Love of Liberty, will afford neither a cheap or easy conquest. Of this at least we are assured, that our struggle will be glorious, our success certain, since even in death we shall find that freedom which in life you forbid us to enjoy.

Let us now ask, *What advantages are to attend our reduction?* the trade of a ruined and desolated country is always inconsiderable, its revenue trifling; the expence of subjecting and retaining it in subjection certain and inevitable. What then remains but the gratifications of an ill-judged pride, or the hope of rendering us subservient to designs on your liberty.

Soldiers who have sheathed their swords in the bowels of their American Brethren, will not draw them with more reluctance against you, when too late you may lament the loss of that freedom, which we exhort you, while still in your power, to preserve.

On the other hand, should you prove unsuccessful; should that connection which we most ardently wish to maintain be dissolved; should your ministers exhaust your treasures; waste the blood of your country-men in vain attempts on our Liberty; do they not deliver you, weak and defenceless, to your natural enemies?

Since then your Liberty must be the price of your victories, your ruin of your defeat, What blind fatality can urge you to a pursuit destructive of all that Britons hold dear?