

known to the British Parliament—that America shall be free, and independent of Great Britain, and that the hearts of this people are always open to the just claims of a free nation; and that the British Parliament disavows the base attempt of governing by other laws, than by those of a free empire.

That you are ready to address the King to withdraw all his troops and arms from America, that the Americans may be assured of the faith and sincere intentions of this country.

Upon this declaration of their independence, and after the troops are withdrawn, and every hostility by sea and land suspended against them, if they will not immediately forgive the hasty and injudicious violence of preceding years; if they will still remember that we have besieged and burned their towns, ravaged their country, and destroyed the industry of their hands, and will therefore obstinately persist to encourage and countenance the enemies of the British empire—perhaps a strict and continued forbearance on our part from them and their property (except what the necessity of defence, and the honor of the British arms and flag should call for) a free admission of their ships into all our ports, a restitution of such of their property as is yet in our hands, and an actual renewal of commerce with them, might soften their animosity, and produce what our arms have in vain attempted—an union between the two countries;—They might and would probably catch at the terms offered;—They would feel and improve so greatly by the change, that the most adverse of the Americans would subscribe to the generous and profitable system proposed by us, and we might again