

sider the violation of their rights, by the act for altering the government of that province, a violation of their own; and that they should be invited to accede to their confederation, which had no other objects than the perfect security of the natural and civil rights of all the constituent members according to their respective circumstances, and the preservation of a happy and lasting connection with Great Britain, on the salutary constitutional principles before-mentioned.

But it was not long before these generous sentiments were changed into acts of hostility the most daring and unprincipled. As the hopes of a reconciliation with the mother country, upon the conditions claimed by the Americans, became more faint, so they grew more determined in their designs, and extended their views to the remote consequences, as well as to the immediate conduct of a war. As we have just seen, the apparent tendency, and avowed design of the Quebec Act, had early drawn their attention and awaked their apprehensions, in relation to the dangers with which they were threatened from that quarter. These apprehensions produced the above address. The success which attended the expedition to the Lakes, with the reduction of Ticonderoga and Crown-Point, in the beginning of the summer of 1775, by which it might be said, that the gates of Canada were thrown open, rendered the affairs of this country more immediately interesting, and encouraged the Congress to a bold measure, which they would not otherwise perhaps have ventured upon. This was no less than the sending of a force for the invasion and reduction of Canada. The Congress were sensible, that they had already gone such lengths as could only be justified by arms. The sword was already drawn and the appeal made. It was too late now to look back, and to waver would be certain destruction. If a certain degree of success did not afford a sanction to their resistance, and dispose the Court of Great Britain to an accommodation upon lenient terms, they would not only lose those immunities for which they contended, but all others would be at the mercy of a jealous and irritated government. In such a state, their moderation in the single instance of Canada, they thought, would be a poor plea for compassion or indulgence. The Congress accordingly determined not to lose the present favourable opportunity, while the British arms were weak and cooped up in Boston for attempting the reduction of this province. Generals Schuyler and Montgomery, with two regiments of New-York militia, a body of New-England men, and some others, amounting in the whole to near three thousand men, were appointed to this service. A number of batteaux, or flat boats, were built at Ticonderoga and Crown-Point, to convey the forces along Lake Champlain to the river Sorel, which forms the entrance into Canada, and is composed of the surplus waters of the Lakes, which it discharges into the River Saint Lawrence, would afford a happy communication between both, were it not for some rapids that obstruct the navigation, but which, we hope, will soon be removed by means of navigable Canals. Not above half the forces were yet arrived, when Montgomery, who was at Crown Point, received some intelligence which rendered him apprehensive that a schooner of considerable force, with some other armed vessels, which lay at the fort of Saint John's, on the river Sorel, now called Chambly, were preparing