

it deserves such harsh severity, but because it is imagined that the majority of the population, being of French extraction, though borne down by continued abuse or arbitrary exactions, would excite no sympathy among the English race by which they are surrounded.

The conviction of the mighty responsibility resting upon us, far from discouraging, invigorates us, conscious that all energetic and free minds throughout the empire must watch with intense anxiety our courageous struggle—that their wishes are for us, and that they pray that we may successively defend the rights of all. For ourselves, rest assured, we are determined never to submit to the intended ministerial usurpation—never to live with the world's finger of derision pointed at us as a people who, more ignoble than slaves that are bought and sold, permitted their birth-right to be wrested from them, thereby establishing a precedent for a similar aggression on the liberties of their brother colonists and fellow-men throughout the empire.

Think not that because few in number, we dread the result of this our determination. Nature has given strong fastnesses to our country; to our people strong hearts. Our arms now are the arguments of justice and of reason. They can be easily changed for more decided weapons, if the eyes of the invaders of our rights continue too dull to see, and their ears too obtuse to hear. We deem not that armed bands from Europe would now wage exterminating war upon the democracy of America. They are themselves the offspring of a democracy which in the nineteenth century is alike in feeling throughout the civilised world. They know they are not blind instruments to do the bidding of a brutal master, but moral agents responsible for their deeds to God and humanity. When the day of trial arrives, they will rather throw aside the ensigns of their cruel occupation, to be received into the kindred bosom of an American fraternity, than aid in murderous designs against the heart's blood of a generous people acting for the defence of the common RIGHTS OF MAN.

We do not assume a tone of defiance to your Government unless forced to it. Our grievances are not of new character or of recent date. They have been publicly and distinctly stated, and the mode and measure of redress have been plainly defined. Our citizens have at public meetings reiterated them for years past. They have founded upon them humble petitions to your Parliament, which turning a deaf ear, now adds aggression to contempt. Under such circumstances we may safely appeal to the judgment of the whole world for our justification in determining to be deluded no longer with vain hopes of redress from beyond the seas, but to depend alone upon our own energies, and that sympathy from our brethren upon this continent, which a cause so just must inevitably command.