

Albany, and the Indians had struck the frontiers, and destroyed eight or ten thousand women and children : that would have been acting in self-defence to some purpose. Is an Indian war to be averted by such means ? Is a frontier of 1200 miles to be constantly guarded by a line of troops ? It is not possible ! The congress had more sense than to attempt it. The sword of governor Carleton was pointed at their bosom ; they endeavoured to rush in and disarm him. By that expedition, their hope was, that they should protect their frontiers against the inroads of the savages, by taking possession of the great avenues into their country ; that they should take the stores also which are necessary to an Indian war, and thus gain the friendship of the Indians. Surely these were measures which arose from the very idea of self-defence ; they were measures that pure necessity had forced upon the congress : for that reason they were not adopted till it was too late in the season ; they were afterwards pursued with that species of ardour which seldom arises but in a state of desperation.

It seems to be a matter of no consequence, in your Lordship's opinion, who was the aggressor at the beginning of this dispute, " We are in blood step'd in so far, we must go on"—
" unless we kill them they will kill us." You have not been used to reason thus in cases of less importance. Suppose a highwayman should demand your Lordship's purse, and, being armed, you should refuse to deliver, is he not at liberty to consider whether he has a clear
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