

safety against every enemy, save their own ambition, and republican principles. Such were the benefits bestowed by the State, before the end of the year 1763, without any alloy of one act of intentional injustice or oppression, or a single injury done and complained of, which remained unredressed. Surely no candid and rational mind can look for the cause of rebellion in a conduct so truly benevolent.

It is needless to say more in vindication of the conduct of the State antecedent to the time I have mentioned. The Congress themselves confess, that the Colonies have no grievances to complain of before that period. They declare, "if Government will place them in the situation they were in before the year 1763, their complaints will subside." Nothing therefore can remain, but to examine whether any acts of injustice or oppression have been done since that time, that could give rise to open rebellion.

The conduct of Government subsequent to this period being grounded on the antecedent circumstances of the Colonies, we must, look back to the commencement of the last war. At that time France meditated the conquest of British America. Hostilities were begun on the Ohio, within the boundaries of Virginia and Pennsylvania, while vigorous preparations were making to invade New England from Canada. Alarmed at the impending danger, and conscious of their own inability to withstand the power of France, the Colonies supplicated the protection of the Mother-country. A British fleet under Commodore Keppel, and a British army hastened to their assistance. The strongest of all motives now pressed them to exert their utmost abilities, in defence of their civil and religious rights.

But before the year 1763, America had been considered as in an infant state, capable of contributing little towards the national defence. Just information respecting the amount of her wealth, was