

pression, till they lose the spirit of freedom, by which alone they are invincible.

Our enemies charge us with sedition ; In what does it consist ? In our refusal to submit to unwarrantable acts of injustice and cruelty ? If so, shew us a period in your history, in which you have not been equally seditious ?

We are accused of aiming at Independence ; but how is this accusation supported ? By the allegations of your ministers, not by our actions.—Abused, insulted, and contemned, what steps have we pursued to obtain redress ? We have carried our dutiful petitions to the throne ;—we have applied to your justice for relief, we have retrenched our luxury and withheld our trade.

The advantages of our commerce were designed as a compensation for your protection ; When you ceased to protect, for what were we to compensate ?

What has been the success of our endeavours ? The clemency of our sovereign is unhappily diverted ; our petitions are treated with indignity ; our prayers answered by insults. Our application to you remains unnoticed, and leaves us the melancholy apprehension, of your wanting either the will, or the powers, to assist us.

Even under these circumstances, what measures have we taken that betray a desire of independence ? Have we called in the aid of those foreign powers, who are the rivals of your grandeur ? When your troops were few and defenceless, did we take advantage of their distress and expel them our towns ? Or have we permitted them to fortify, to receive new aid and to acquire additional strength ?

Let not your enemies and ours persuade you, that in this we were influenced by fear or any other unworthy motive. The lives of Britons are still dear to us.—They are the Children of our Parents, an uninterrupted intercourse of mutual benefits had knit the bonds of friendship.—When hostilities were commenced, when on a late occasion we were wantonly attacked by your troops, though we repelled their assaults, and returned their blows, yet we lamented the wounds they obliged us to give ; nor have we yet learned to rejoice at a victory over Englishmen.

As we wish not to colour our actions, or disguise our thoughts ; we shall, in the simple language of truth, avow the measures we have pursued, the motives upon which we have acted, and our future designs.

When