

ground, and to quote Davenant as a proof that somebody has said the Americans would hereafter strive to be independent; or to quote the declaration of the Americans themselves, as a proof that they ask for nothing more or less than a state of independence, we are in pain for the Majesty of Truth. In a little time we shall not wonder if it is commonly affirmed that the Americans, from their innate love of despotism have been contriving a revolution in favour of an exiled family; we should not even be surprised if every recruiting officer was taught to use this argument as the most likely means of rousing the English nation; as for our brethren in the north, their loyalty, at present, does not seem to need any spur. However this may be, I must bespeak your Lordship's patience a few minutes, while I am a little more particular in considering the foundation of that general charge which you have been pleased to bring. Whatever any writers have supposed might happen to America, by observing what has happened to all other nations, yet I can safely affirm, that whoever was best acquainted with the colonists had least reason to believe that they were looking towards a state of independence. As members of the British empire, they have enjoyed, till the beginning of the present controversy, (a few impolitic and unprofitable restrictions excepted) as much liberty as was consistent with civil government, or as much as they could possibly expect under a new form. They were conscious of the blessing, they prayed for its

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continuance.