

“ violation of all the rights of mankind, on the lives and property of their own brethren and descendants, after a full and acknowledged conviction. Be once more yourselves again, and let justice lay the foundation-stone of peace.”

But who can give us assurance that these are *now* the sentiments of America? I reply that you should require that account at the hands of your Ministers. That these *have been* the sentiments of America, I have just now given you the proofs; and I am confident, from the general sentiments of my country, that the apprehension of their being no longer so, is, on our part, not unattended with regret. If then our country does but entertain a secret wish, to be rescued from a part of those evils, into which their Ministers have plunged them; if they are prepared to receive temperate counsels, and to abandon the suggestions of false pride, and dark revenge, which their Ministers are at this moment secretly instilling into their ears, the most distant chance which can be suggested, for restoring the state of national affairs, may be entitled to a dispassionate and calm discussion. I do not mean to speak in any degree as desponding of the restoration of national affairs, under wiser counsels, but lamenting, that whatever change of system may henceforward take place, or whatever reversal of past measures may now be decided upon, yet, that all future remedy must come too late, to restore the thousands of lives, and the millions of property, which have been sacrificed to the cruelty and pride of Ministers; or to efface the regret of my country, for having entrusted the powers of the realm, to the most destructive purposes, into such false and faithless hands.

That no consideration of national interests has animated the Ministry in any part of their measures, is no less evident in their concessions to America, than in their conduct of the war. The surrender of all the beneficial interests of their country, under the act of navigation, appears to have been totally spontaneous and voluntary on the part of the Ministry. There is not the least shadow of an attempt to bargain for any equivalent concession. Under what clause of the conciliatory act can this conduct be justified? The surrender of parliamentary taxation is justified specially under an act for that purpose. The offer of perfect freedom of legislation, and internal government, is justified by an act of parliament, evidently leading that way, by the repeal of the Massachusetts charter act of the year 1774. But with respect to the act of navigation, no instructions given by Ministry to the Commissioners, can be justified, farther than to authorise them to treat and consult, and after such treaty and consultation, to come to any compromise which may be necessary in their judgment and discretion. Unfortunately so. This act of navigation was not a ministerial interest, it was only a national one. The Ministry saw very clearly that no objects were surrendered by this their sudden and voluntary concessions of the act of navigation, which were in any degree worthy of their attention; only such trifles, as the navy of England, the honour of the British flag and name, the commerce, manufactures, revenue, and land-rents of the country, our fisheries, foreign possessions, and domestic security; objects, which