

But my design is not to consider, how far the conduct of the Colonies is, or is not, conformable to the rules and precepts of the Christian religion; but, how far it is to be condemned or justified by the maxims of sound policy and prudence. Our temporal interest and safety are considerations which all will regard, how much soever they may slight or despise the obligations of religion.

The voice of complaint, to call it no worse, is now heard through every corner of our land; and we are daily exhorted to prepare for the defence of our liberties, and all that is sacred, with united efforts. — But before we proceed, it concerns us to be well informed, both as to our real danger, and the steps proper to be taken.

Were the Americans actually in a state of oppression, it would shew their wisdom and prudence, to submit with patience to their present condition, rather than to provoke the power that oppresses them, without some fair prospect of obtaining relief. One degree of distress, in consequence of the weight of illegal power, is a grievance; ten degrees of distress are proportionably a greater evil; but bad as it is, he must be an idiot or a madman, who would not prefer them to twenty. But it appears to me that, of all people under heaven, the King's subjects in America, have hitherto had the least ground for complaint; and that the present confusion of the Colonies has been occasioned by misinformations and false alarms. If none of our *legal* rights have been invaded, no injury has been done us; if we have not been injured, we have no room for complaint; and we can never be justified in resenting that, which it would be unreasonable to complain of.

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