

their shoulders to the American war. If either of them should be questioned, some part of the nation may still remain tardy. Your first endeavour is to persuade us that every set of ministers and all parties of men have uniformly agreed in their attempts to tax the Americans ever since that question was first agitated. If that had indeed been the case, we have certainly nothing to gain by a change of men, for the same measures would still be pursued; and if there can be no change of measures, the Americans had best submit in time, since they can never expect more reasonable terms. Whatever the truth may be, your Lordship has certainly heard that the Americans in general view this subject in a different light. They believe that there is a very respectable, a very numerous body of men in this kingdom, who are generally distinguished by the name of Whigs, who are friends to civil liberty and perfectly averse to the idea of taxing their brethren in North-America. They believe, that by some of those men the stamp-act was repealed, a humane, prudent, and magnanimous measure, by which peace was restored to the empire, though the authors of it knew they must be ruined at court.

*“Nec profunt domino quæ profunt omnibus artes.”*

The Americans, indeed, complain of the declaratory act *as it is explained by their enemies*, for it is now made, and without further explanation.