

weighed with caution ; and, therefore, it is as necessary for THEM to adhere to truth, in the former, as it is prudent to avoid sophistry in the latter.

This consideration, however obvious it may appear to others, seems to have totally escaped the attention of the body of men who lately sat at Philadelphia under the name of " The General " American Congress." In a paper published under the title of " A DECLARATION by the Representatives of the United Colonies of North " America" *, the facts are either wilfully or ignorantly misrepresented ; and the arguments deduced from premises that have no foundation in truth. But, as whatever falls from men who call themselves the Representatives of a People, must fall with some degree of weight on the minds of the undiscerning part of mankind ; it becomes, in some measure, necessary to examine briefly the reasons held forth by the Congress to justify the rebellion of their Constituents. On a subject so trite, arguments advanced by other Writers may sometimes recur ; but novelty is less the object of this part of the disquisition, than perspicuity and precision.

The Declaration of the Congress begins with an involved period, which either contains no meaning, or a meaning not founded on the principles

* Vide Appendix.