

with their own views to admit. When I quitted Domestic happiness for the Perils of the Field I conceived the rights of my Country in Danger, and that Duty and Honour called me to her Defence—a Redress of grievances was my only Object and aim; however, I acquiesced in a step which I thought would precipitate the Declaration of Independence; to justify the measure many plausible reasons were urged, which could no longer exist, when Great Britain with the open arms of a Parent offered to embrace us as children and grant the wished for redress. And now that her worst enemies are in her own bosom, I should change my Principles, If I conspired with their Designs. Yourselves being Judges, was the war the less just, because Fellow Subjects were considered as our Foes? You have felt the torture in which we raise our arms against a Brother—God Incline the the Guilty protractors of these unnatural Dissentions to resign their Ambition, and Cease from their Delusions, in Compassion to kindred blood.

"I anticipate your question: was not the War a defensive one until the French joined in the Combination? I answer, that I thought so. You will add, was it not afterwards necessary till the Separation of the Welfare of my Country, I am free to declare my Opinion, that this End attained, all strife should have ceased.

"I lamented therefore the Impolicy, tyranny, and Injustice, which with a sovereign Contempt of the people of America, studiously neglected to take their Collective sentiments of British proposals of Peace and to negotiate under a suspension of Arms for an adjustment of differences, as a dangerous Sacrifice of the great Interest of this Country to the Partial views of a proud, antient, and crafty foe, I had my suspicions of some imperfections in Our Councils, on proposals prior to the Parliamentary Commission of 1778; but having then less to do in the Cabinet than the Field (I will not pronounce peremptorily as some may, and perhaps justly, that Congress have veiled them from the Public