

God forbid that any of the profession to which I belong, should ever forget their peculiar character, exercise a turbulent spirit, or prostitute their voice to enflame men's minds to the purposes of wild ambition, or mutual destruction. I am happy in knowing that nothing of this kind is wished from me; nay that the delegated voice of the continent, as well as of this particular province, supports me in praying for a *restoration* "of the former harmony between Great Britain and these Colonies upon so firm a basis as to perpetuate its blessings, uninterrupted by any future dissensions, to succeeding generations in both countries." *

INDEED this matter rests in *safe hands*, and is clear in itself. If redress of grievances, essential liberty, and security against future oppression can be obtained, agreeable to our own desires; then, neither consistency, dignity, nor a regard to our illustrious British Friends, who have defended our cause, pledged themselves for our sincerity, and hope by our aid to restore and perpetuate the glory of the *whole empire*, can suffer us to hesitate.

* The above paragraph having been either misrepresented or misunderstood by some, the author does not think himself at liberty to make the least alteration in it, even if he judged any to be necessary. The quotation from the last petition of *Congress*, as well as the reference made to the instructions of our Assembly, both point to a *past* period; and the author cannot be considered, from thence, as taking upon him to make the least declaration concerning the present sentiments of either of these bodies; nor is there a word which can preclude the taking into the terms of accommodation, so far as may be thought reasonable, the redress of whatever grievances or losses we may have sustained, since that period. Upon the whole, it is presumed, that a single sentiment is not to be found in the *Oration*, which is not fully consonant to every declaration of *Congress* which has yet appeared. And to impute to them, or even suspect, the least change of sentiment, before they themselves have declared it, would not only be *indecent* but very injurious to our cause. The author is also consistent with himself, and if the same doctrines which he has been told, were well received in his late publication, should now be disagreeable to any, the fault is not his. But he will give the reader no further trouble on this topic, unless his own defence in future should render it necessary.