

explicit, and clear from all ambiguity. They should also fully and equitably meet the subject matter in controversy, and, if possible, the wishes of the people to whom they are made. Now none of the terms offered to the Americans came within these descriptions, as I have before shewn. If then we have been guilty of mistakes through the want of right information, we certainly ought not to suffer those mistakes to prevent our taking such measures as we ought to have taken at first. Rome at length found it necessary to her safety to be just, and to do that in her distress, with little credit to herself, which she might and ought to have done in her prosperity, with greater advantage and better grace. Had Rome continued obstinate, or had she ultimately offered to her Colonies equivocal and inadequate propositions, her glory, if not her existence, must have been sacrificed to her obstinacy and folly.

Why then should not Great-Britain, when involved in the same difficulties, attended by the same circumstances, and having the same prospect of success before her, follow a precedent which promises such beneficial consequences? Is it because the earnest wish of the people of America is not known? It cannot be the case, because it is fully asserted in their instructions to their delegates in Congress, and a variety of other public documents, and declared to be a *constitutional union in polity with Great-Britain*. Is it because the Congress have artfully avoided to gratify the desires of the people in explicitly asking for that union, or because they have insolently refused to treat with this country, contrary to the general sense of their constituents? Both these reasons are the strongest that can be offered in favour of the measure. Is it because a measure, which evidently tends to break the confederated force and union of the colonies—to remove the fears of the loyalists, and to gratify their reasonable desires, which perfectly coincide with the true interest and permanent safety of both countries, is unworthy of the serious deliberations of a

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