

kind. Such an association must of course necessitate the exertion of the strong arm of absolute power to keep it together. This must naturally sow the seeds of disaffection in the breasts of the governed, a disaffection which increases in proportion to the disappointment of those hopes by which they were allured. To guard against the dangers that encompass them, the leaders must secure to themselves the assistance of those whose influence they fear, by making them sharers in their authority, and by tolerating the abuses of such a delegated power which they can no longer control, even if they had the will to do it. The national character is no longer discernible, public spirit is out of the question, and every one directs his exertions to the attainment of his own gratification.

Emerged, however, out of this infancy and grown to a certain degree of comfort by individual industry, it would not be difficult to restore that public spirit and national character, and to root out of the minds of the Colonists that disaffection resulting from inevitable causes, by setting forth to them the prospect of enjoying the fruit of their laborious exertions. Unluckily it is not often the case. Instead of being promoted to the offices of honor or profit, they have the mortification of seeing the greatest and best part of these offices occupied by new comers, and strangers harvesting where they did not sow. How can the Colonists, thus disregarded and left in the back ground recover that energy, without which no public spirit can exist? How can they feel like children for a country that acts like a step mother towards them?

Another cause of that dissimilarity in the respective social states of the Parent country and its colonies is, that in the former, the distance between the sovereign and the subject is so great that it is only given to very few to come near the foot of the throne. There it is extremely difficult even to get access to those who have a share in the distribution of favors. In Colonies, on the contrary, that distance between the representative of Royal majesty and the subject, is almost imperceptible, and those who surround him are on a level with those who have not that immediate advantage. Every one finding himself so near the fountain of favors, exerts himself to become a participant in their distribution, but for one successful there are a hundred disappointed, and jealousy and envy springing from that disappointment, rend asunder the already too weak social ties, add fuel to the too prevalent selfishness, and smother and extinguish more and more every spark of public spirit.

The last general cause of that dissimilarity, which appears to me very obvious, is the consequence of the frequent change of the heads of Colonial administration. Indeed what is the situation of the high character whom the sovereign sends over to represent him in one of his distant dominions? Often a perfect stranger to the