

tious views on the other. As therefore, by my address, I meant to do justice to your principles, which I knew to be those of peace and government, established on political liberty, — so I took that occasion, as I will ever esteem it a duty to do, to bear my testimony to the affection which the Colonists have ever born to the mother country ; to their zeal for its welfare ; to their sense of government, and their loyalty to their sovereign ; as also how much they have merited from this country, and how much they deserve to be considered by it ; in order to put these matters of dispute on a footing of reconciliation, fair discussion, and equitable settlement.——

It is a great pity that questions of this nature were ever raised ; * “ for, it is a very “ unsafe thing in settled governments, to “ argue the reason of the fundamental con- “ stitutions.”—But when contrary propositions are alternately brought forward by the representatives of two people, as the avowed

* Comm. Journal, 1672.