

" These were not the hollow and insincere professions of which we have been,
 " falsely accused, but the truest testimonies of national sincerity and attachment.
 " These were the effusions of our hearts, in the trying hours of danger and dismay.
 " Can you find in these words, the machinations of designing leaders, and ambitious
 " demagogues, practising upon their credulous country, the insidious arts of deceit, so
 " well known to British Ministers? Would men of this description, and with the de-
 " signs imputed to them by your Ministry, knowing a tender affection towards the
 " parent state to be universal among their countrymen, have thus cherished it in the
 " fond expectation of an equal return? Would they have recommended to their
 " country the most persevering attachment to those principles, until they should be
 " reduced to such a situation as to be compelled to renounce every regard but that
 " of self-preservation? Have your Ministers acted in the same spirit of reconciliation
 " of moderation and forbearance? Have they interposed the peaceful offices of
 " mediation to palliate mutual offences, to abate resentments, and to compose animos-
 " ities? Have they been the blessed peacemakers, or have they not been false calum-
 " niators, excitors of jealousy and discord, and the remorseless Ministers of dark
 " and sanguinary revenge? Did they not reject our petitions unheard, and cast us out
 " from the national protection, thereby driving us to the reluctant necessity of inde-
 " pendence? Were they not the first to avail themselves of foreign alliances, and to
 " introduce unfeeling mercenaries into this civil contest, while we had refrained from
 " calling in the aid of those powers, who were the natural rivals of your grandeur?
 " Have they not prosecuted, with all the powers of the realm, every destructive measure
 " against us, thereby compelling us finally to renounce every regard, but that of self-pre-
 " servation? In addition to all this catalogue of crimes and cruelties, they now proclaim
 " before the whole world, that they have done all these things, knowing, at the same
 " time, that the avowed objects of their pursuit were not even beneficial to their own
 " country, nor safe for its dependencies; thus insulting their country, and deriding its
 " credulity, for lending themselves to their unjust and secret designs. All deception
 " is therefore now done away. Then let the British nation rouse themselves, and vin-
 " dicate the national honour and justice. Here let them lay the corner stone of a
 " national reconciliation with America. War can have no shadow of a pretext now,
 " but henceforth must become mere revenge. Let the people of Great Britain step
 " forth and arrest the bloody hand of undisguised revenge. Let this be the first
 " pledge of future reconciliation, and the token to us that their minds are not indis-
 " putably hostile. All that is now left in their power to do, can amount but to a poor
 " recompence for those numberless miseries, which, through their inattention, a British
 " Ministry have been suffered to heap upon our devoted heads. Let it not be recorded
 " of those who have been the assertors of the rights of mankind, and who have vindic-
 " ated the violated laws of justice against the Ministers of tyrants, that they should
 " knowingly, and with their eyes open, suffer their own Ministers to proceed in the