

“ 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