

by virtue of a stern necessity, to assume a degree of independence which they well knew would seriously conflict with the interests of their more powerful rival. The apparent contempt with which all their petitions were rejected, the utter disregard with which their remonstrances were treated, begat within the patient, though fearless colonists, such a degree of virtuous indignation as to kindle the flame which lay idly smouldering at the hearthstone of every patriot's heart, and which burned with such an undimmed lustre for after years. The harsh measures adopted in 1775, to force the colonies into submission—the domineering policy of the British government to thwart and disparage the growing energies of republican minds, convinced the Americans that an appeal to arms was inevitable. Their love for the mother country was still strong within them, though the odious stamp act in 1765, had greatly alienated their affections, and every new restraint upon their civil liberties was deeply provocative of some serious result. They had

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