

dream of becoming independent ; madness itself could not tempt them to think of it. The Spaniards, indeed, have vast possessions in America ; but whatever the natives might attempt, the small Spanish colonies, that are scattered over the face of a great country, will hardly think of a revolt : they should rather be considered as so many factories planted by Spain in those golden regions, than as a compact body of men, who might ever attempt to form a separate empire. There are reasons, however, which may prevent France and Spain from viewing this controversy with an eye of perfect neutrality ; their safety and commercial interest are at stake, they are blind to neither. Great Britain and her colonies, united as they have been by the cords of interest and mutual affection, must soon have become a dangerous neighbour. The fleets of Britain, and the armies of North America would have left France and Spain no other security for their sugar islands, or their possessions on the southern continent, than the faith of treaties or priority of claim—feeble tenures, when the longest sword is wanting. On the other hand, should the colonies finally shake off their union with Britain, neither France nor Spain could have any thing to fear from either. Great Britain, deprived of her colony trade, and deprived, as she soon would be, of her Newfoundland fishery, must cease to be formidable at sea, and the colonies alone, in that republican form which they are now like to assume, however unanimous and formidable in their common defence,

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