

Resistance to the arbitrary principles adopted by the Stuarts at an early period, drove some of the best citizens of England into exile. And when at the restoration, the descendants of the first Charles (inheriting of the characteristics of their father, nothing but his dissimulation and his obstinacy), commenced their career of proscription; the Pilgrims of the Colonies derived a precious accession to their physical and moral strength, by the expatriation of thousands with resolution to dare every thing, to preserve the religious and civil principles for which they first drew their swords, and for the defence of which, they were driven into exile.

The transactions of the preceding reigns, and the discussions which grew out of them, had well expounded those principles; and the men who had been actors, or participators in those momentous events, had so inculcated them into the succeeding generations, that it needed but collision to produce the spark of patriotism, which set the whole of the Colonies in flame. It was the peculiar character and constitution of mind of the Colonists, formed by these persecutions of their ancestors, that enabled them successfully to resist the encroachments of the mother country. The remembrance of the wrongs of their fathers, and the glorious resistance which they had made at home, determined them to defend, at all hazards, the precious inheritance to which they had succeeded; and they watched with jealous eye, the first effort of the British Parliament to invade their privileges, and to fetter them in political bondage.

The designs of the ministry were early detected; and as they gradually developed themselves in successive acts of Parliament restricting the trade of the Colonies, the obnoxious encroachments were every where met with boldness, and resisted with energy. The law imposing stamp duties; the crowning act of an infatuated ministry, directly affected all classes of society, and met with universal resistance; and the measures resorted to, in order to compel its rescission, and to reform other abuses; though ruinous to many, and