

ceftors, whose memory we will not dishonour by our degeneracy, it is reasonable to hope, that they will approve of our conduct, and bestow their loudest applauses on our congenial ardour for Liberty.

But if these reasonable and joyful hopes should fatally be disappointed, it will afford us at least some satisfaction to know, that the principles on which we have founded our opposition to the late Acts of Parliament, are the principles of justice and freedom, and of the British constitution. If our righteous struggle shall be attended with misfortunes, we will reflect with exultation on the noble cause of them ; and while suffering unmerited distress, think ourselves superior to the proudest slaves. On the contrary, if we shall be re-instated in the enjoyment of those rights, to which we are entitled by the supreme and *uncontrollable* laws of nature, and the fundamental principles of the British constitution, we shall reap the glorious fruit of our labours ; and we shall, at the same time, give to the world, and to posterity, an instructive example, that the cause of liberty ought not to be despaired of, and that a generous contention in that cause is not always unattended with success.

THE foregoing Considerations have induced me to publish a few remarks on the important question, with which I introduced this Essay.

THOSE who allege that the Parliament of Great Britain have power to make Laws binding the American Colonies, reason in the following manner: " That there is and must be in every state a supreme, irresistible, absolute, uncontrollable authority, in which the *jura summi imperii*, or the rights of sovereignty reside :" * " That this supreme power, is, by the Constitution of Great-Britain, vested in the King, Lords, and Commons :" † " That, therefore, the Acts of the King, Lords, and Commons, or, in other words, Acts of Parliament, have, by the British Constitution, a binding Force on the American Colonies, they composing a part of the British Empire."

I ADMIT

* Blackstone, 48, 49.

† Ibid. 50, 51.