laws for imaginary commonwealths ; and his difcourfes, like the ftars, would give little light, becaufe they are fo high."

But this is not the worft that can juftly be faid concern-ing the fituation of the Colonies, if they are bound by the Acts of the Britifh legiflature. So far are thofe powerful fprings of action, which we have mentioned, from intereft-ing the members of that legiflature in our favour, that, as has been already obferved, we have the greateft reafon to dread their operation againft us. While the happy Commons of Great-Britain congratulate themfelves upon the Liberty, which they enjoy, and upon the provifions——infallible, as far as they can be rendered fo by human wifdom——which are made for perpetuating it to their lateft pofterity ; the un-happy Americans have reafon to bewail the dangerous fitua-tion, to which they are reduced ; and to look forward, with difmal apprehenfion, to thofe future fcenes of woe, which, in all probability, will open upon their defcendants.

What has been already advanced, will fuffice to fhew, that it is repugnant to the effential maxims of jurifprudence, to the ultimate end of all governments, to the genius of the Britifh conftitution, and to the liberty and happinefs of the Colonies, that they fhould be bound by the legiflative autho-rity of the Parliament of Great-Britain. Such a doctrine is not lefs repugnant to the voice of her laws. In order to evince this, I fhall appeal to fome authorities from the books of the law, which fhew exprefsly, or by a neceffary implica-tion, that the Colonies are not bound by the Acts of the Bri-tifh Parliament ; becaufe they have no fhare in the Britifh legiflature.

The firft cafe I fhall mention was adjudged in the 2d year of Richard IId. It was a folemn determination of all the Judges of England, met in the exchequer-chamber, to con-fider whether the people in Ireland were bound by an Act of Parliament made in England. They refolved, " That they were not, as to fuch things as were done in Ireland ; but that what they did out of Ireland, muft be conformable to

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