

this manner. It will be sufficient for me to shew, that it is unreasonable, and injurious to the Colonies to extend that title to them. How come the Colonists to be a conquered people? By whom was the conquest over them obtained? By the House of Commons? By the constituents of that House? If the idea of conquest must be taken into consideration when we examine into the title by which America is held, that idea, so far as it can operate, will operate in favour of the Colonists, and not against them. Permitted and commissioned by the Crown, they undertook, at their own expence, expeditions to this distant country, took possession of it, planted it, and cultivated it. Secure under the protection of their King, they grew and multiplied, and diffused British freedom and British spirit, wherever they came. Happy in the enjoyment of liberty, and in reaping the fruits of their toils; but still more happy in the joyful prospect of transmitting their liberty and their fortunes to the latest posterity, they inculcated to their children the warmest sentiments of loyalty to their sovereign, under whose auspices they enjoyed so many blessings, and of affection and esteem for the inhabitants of the Mother Country, with whom they gloried in being intimately connected. Lessons of loyalty to Parliament indeed, they never gave: They never suspected that such unheard of loyalty would be required. They never suspected that their descendants would be considered and treated as a conquered people; and therefore they never taught them the submission and abject behaviour suited to that character.

I AM sufficiently aware of an objection, that will be made to what I have said concerning the legislative authority of the British Parliament. It will be alleged, that I throw off all dependance on Great-Britain. This objection will be held forth, in its most specious colours, by those, who, from servility of soul, or from mercenary considerations, would meanly bow their necks to every exertion of arbitrary power: It may likewise alarm some, who entertain the most favourable opinion of the connexion between Great-Britain and her Colonies;