

Colonies; but who are not sufficiently acquainted with the nature of that connexion, which is so dear to them. Those of the first class, I hope, are few; I am sure they are contemptible, and deserve to have very little regard paid to them: But for the sake of those of the second class, who may be more numerous, and whose laudable principles atone for their mistakes, I shall take some pains to obviate the objection, and to shew that a denial of the legislative authority of the British Parliament over America is by no means inconsistent with that connexion, which ought to subsist between the Mother Country and her Colonies, and which, at the first settlement of those Colonies, it was intended to maintain between them: But that, on the contrary, that connexion would be intirely destroyed by the extension of the power of Parliament over the American plantations.

LET us examine what is meant by a *Dependance* on Great-Britain: For it is always of importance clearly to define the terms that we use. Blackstone, who, speaking of the Colonies, tells us, that "they are no part of the Mother Country," try, but distinct (though *dependant*) dominions," ¶ explains dependance in this manner. "Dependance is very little else, but an obligation to conform to the will or law of that superior person or state, upon which the inferior depends." "The original and true ground of this superiority in the case of Ireland, is what we usually call, though somewhat improperly, the right of conquest; a right allowed by the law of nations, if not by that of nature; but which, in reason and civil policy, can mean nothing more, than that, in order to put an end to hostilities, a compact is either expressly or tacitly made between the conqueror and the conquered, that if they will acknowledge the victor for their master, he will treat them for the future as subjects, and not as enemies." §

THE original and true ground of the superiority of Great-Britain over the American Colonies is not shewn in any book of the law, unless, as I have already observed, it be derived from

¶ Blackstone, 107.

§ Ibid. 103.