

from the right of conquest. But I have proved, and I hope satisfactorily, that this right is altogether inapplicable to the Colonists. The original of the superiority of Great-Britain over the Colonies is, then, unaccounted for; and when we consider the ingenuity and pains which have lately been employed at home on this subject, we may justly conclude, that the only reason why it is not accounted for, is, that it *cannot* be accounted for. The superiority of Great-Britain over the Colonies ought, therefore, to be rejected; and the dependence of the Colonies on her, if it is to be construed into "an obligation to conform to the will or law of the superior state," ought, in *this* sense, to be rejected also.

My sentiments concerning this matter are not so singular. They coincide with the declarations and remonstrances of the Colonies against the statutes imposing taxes on them. It was their unanimous opinion, that the Parliament have no *right* to exact obedience to those statutes; and, consequently, that the Colonies are under no *obligation* to obey them. The dependence of the Colonies on Great-Britain was denied in those instances; but a denial of it in those instances is, in effect, a denial of it in all other instances. For, if dependence is an obligation to conform to the will or law of the superior state; any exceptions to that obligation must destroy the dependence. If, therefore, by a dependence of the Colonies on Great-Britain, it is meant, that they are obliged to obey the laws of Great-Britain, reason, as well as the unanimous voice of the Americans, teaches us to disown it. Such a dependence was never thought of by those who left Britain, in order to settle in America; nor by their Sovereigns, who gave them commissions for that purpose. Such an *obligation* has no correspondent *right*: For the Commons of Great-Britain have no dominion over their equals and fellow subjects in America: They can confer no right to their delegates to bind those equals and fellow subjects by laws.

THERE is another, and a much more reasonable meaning, which may be intended by the dependence of the Colonies on Great-Britain. The phrase may be used to denote the obedience