

illness of *overweening sloth*, and the feverish activity of that *ill informed zeal*, which busies itself in maintaining *little, mean and narrow* opinions. Let us, with a truly wise *generosity and charity*, banish and discourage all *illiberal distinctions*, which may arise from differences in *situation*, forms of *government*, or modes of *religion*. Let us consider ourselves as MEN---FREEMEN---CHRISTIAN FREEMEN---separated from the rest of the world, and firmly bound together by the same *rights, interests and dangers*. Let these keep our attention inflexibly fixed on the *GREAT OBJECTS*, which we must CONTINUALLY REGARD, in order to *preserve those rights*, to *promote those interests*, and to *avert those dangers*.

LET these truths be indelibly impressed on our minds---that we cannot be *HAPPY*, without being *FREE*---that we cannot be free, without being *secure* in our *property*---that we cannot be secure in our *property*, if, without our *consent*, others may, as by right, take it away---that *taxes imposed on us by parliament*, do thus take it away---that *duties laid for the sole purpose of raising money*, are *taxes*---that *attempts to lay such duties should be instantly and firmly opposed*---that this opposition can never be effectual, unless it is the *united effort of these provinces*---that therefore *BENEVOLENCE of temper towards each other*, and *UNANIMITY of counsels*, are essential to the welfare of the whole---and lastly, that for this reason, every man amongst us, who in any manner would encourage either *dissension, diffidence, or indifference*, between these colonies, is an enemy to himself, and to his country.

THE belief of these truths, I verily think, my countrymen, is indispensably necessary to your happiness. I beseech you, therefore, † “teach them diligently unto your children, and talk of them when you sit in your houses, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

WHAT have these colonies to *ask*, while they continue free? Or what have they to *dread*, but insidious attempts to subvert their freedom? *Their prosperity* does not depend on *ministerial favors doled out to particular provinces*. They form one political body, of which each colony is a member. *Their happiness* is founded on *their constitution*; and is to be promoted, by preserving that constitution in unabated vigor, *throughout every part*. A spot, a speck of decay, however small the limb on which it appears, and however remote it may seem from the vitals, should be alarming. We have *all the rights* requisite for our prosperity. The *legal authority* of Great-Britain may indeed lay hard restrictions upon us; but, like the spear of Telephus, it will cure as well as wound. Her unkindness will instruct and compel us, after some time, to discover, in our *industry and frugality*, surprising remedies---if our rights continue unviolated: For as long as the *products of our labor*, and

† Deuteron. vi. 7.