

cease to believe and practise it, and all in general become most indifferent to it. May they not possibly be more successful than their mother-country has been, in preserving that reverence and authority, which is due to the laws? to those who make? and to those who execute them? May not a method be invented of procuring some tolerable share of the comforts of life to those inferior useful ranks of men, to whose industry we are indebted for the whole? Time and discipline may discover some means to correct the extreme inequalities of condition between the rich and the poor, so dangerous to the innocence and the happiness of both. They may fortunately be led by habit and choice to despise that luxury, which is considered with us as the true enjoyment of wealth. They may have little relish for that ceaseless hurry of amusements, which is pursued in this country without pleasure, exercise, or employment. And perhaps after trying some of our follies and caprices, and rejecting the rest, they may be led by reason and experiment to that old simplicity, which was first pointed out by nature, and has produced those models which we still admire in arts, eloquence and manners. The diversity of new scenes and situations, which so many growing states must necessarily pass through, may intro-

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introduce changes in the fluctuating opinions and manners of men, which we can form no conception of. And not only the gracious disposition of Providence, but the visible preparation of causes, seems to indicate strong tendencies towards a general improvement.

And I hope that these matters, which I have presumed to dwell upon perhaps a little too minutely, will not appear totally foreign to the present occasion, if we reflect that to whatever limits the population of our colonies may extend, whatever states and kingdoms they may form; through all the progress of their fortunes and prosperity; the labours of this Society will probably continue to operate with an increasing influence. That sober and reasonable sense of duty, which has been taught under our direction to a few scattered villages, may give it's character hereafter to the religion and morals of a powerful state. The weak and imperfect fruits we reap at present may bear no higher proportion to the future benefits that may arise, than that of a few scattered seeds to the fullness of the harvest.

And perhaps the disinterested zeal of this Society for the instruction of our brethren in North America, may tend to revive that union and cordiality between the mother-country and it's colonies, which for the common utility ought

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