

tive of the noblest benefits; and, at all events, will neither lessen the extent of our power, nor shorten the duration of it.

When things are on so reasonable a footing, if there should happen to be any errors in government, they will soon be corrected by the friendly disposition of the people; and the endeavours to separate the interest of the colonies from that of Great Britain will be received with the indignation, that is due to the artifices of factious men, who wish to grow eminent by the misfortunes of their country.

Even in that future state of independency, which some amongst them ignorantly wish for, but which for their true interest can never be too long delayed; the old and prudent will often look back on their present happiness with regret; and consider the peace and security, the state of visible improvement, and brotherly equality, which they enjoyed under the protection of their mother-country, as the true golden age of America.

I need not suggest how favourable these dispositions must prove to the reception of the religious and benevolent doctrines, which it is the business of this Society to propagate. Under a mutual inclination to peace and good will, the lessons of piety we teach will be heard with that fair attention which always turns to

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the advantage of truth; and the claims we make will be estimated (which is all we ought to desire) by the reasonableness of them.

Now I feel upon my mind a strong impression of the publick advantages that would result from this benevolent and christian policy; and I could wish for the interest of mankind, and of our country in particular, that it may not be thought wholly of a visionary nature. I think I can see a strong and immediate demand upon us for such a conduct, from the situation we are in, and the unusual occurrences that have passed before us within a few years. There seems at present to be a great and general commotion, and tendency to change, in the minds of men. Animated by the gradual improvement of knowledge, and the fortunate example of this country, our neighbours have had the courage to think with greater freedom on the most important subjects, and to look for something better in religion and government, than they find established among themselves. And even in this land of liberty, where we have been long in possession of the most solid and valuable truths, the spirit of enquiry is still at work, and urging it's pursuits with a dangerous freedom, that risks more than it can hope to gain. At the same time not only discontent and faction, but the real difficulties of things, the extent, the fluctuation

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