

and the intricacies of commerce afford sufficient exercise for political wisdom. Add to this a vast accession of distant territory, the art of governing which we are yet to learn. Our colonies are rising into states and nations. The extreme boundaries of the world are opening to our view; and regions, unknown to our fathers, may soon become the objects of contention. In this great shifting scene of human affairs, the concerns of this extensive empire are growing every year into more importance and dignity. It behoves us to adopt some plan of conduct, that shall be suitable to our situation and the high character we sustain. The interest of Britain, considered singly by itself, ought not at present to be the sole; and in a few ages may not be the most considerable object of attention. We have already tried what advantage is to be found in governing by force; and have no reason to be proud of the experiment. What benefit has accrued to the publick from the plunder and desolation of an industrious helpless people? The whole profit, we have reaped from so much injustice and dishonour, has ended in fraudulent schemes, vain and extravagant expectations, ruinous expence and luxury; attended with a general loss of credit and confidence, a sudden suspension of commerce and industry, and an almost total stoppage

stoppage of the main springs and vital motions of society. It requires no common degree of wisdom to deliver our country from such gains and such prosperity as this!

A great liberal commanding spirit is wanting; such as has appeared but rarely in modern times, but was better known to the ancients; which, without computing and calculating what is strictly due, can extort affection and gratitude by publick services; which can sacrifice little and even great interests to the establishment of a solid permanent authority, founded on justice and moderation: which permitting it's subjects to enjoy and improve all their natural advantages, can always avail itself of their wealth and numbers for the defence or the glory of the empire; and is sure to find the most powerful resources of government in their friendship and love.

We presume not to instruct our rulers in the measures of government: but it is the proper office of a preacher of the gospel of peace, to point out the laws of justice and equity which must ultimately regulate the happiness of states as well as of individuals: and which are no other in effect than those benevolent christian morals which it is the province of this Society to teach, transferred from the duties of private life to the administration of publick affairs.