

the other, whilst a military force is employed to support the former, and to vindicate the Latter, unhappy must be the Contest, unhappy must the issue of it be, whatever may finally be the contingent Decision We most ardently wish to see not only a Cessation of all Hostilities; but a perfect Restoration of peace, good order, & the just Authorities of Government, & a Renovation of that cordial Affection, Intercourse, & Confidence whence so many reciprocal Benefits have been derived to the parent State, & the Colonies, we can with the greatest Truth assert that Independence of G. Britain is not the Aim, or wish of the people of this Province, & that they wou'd cheerfully, & in the most explicit Terms, Acknowledge their Subordination, as Instruments of the National Commerce, & the Authority of Parliament to bind them by Laws corresponding with & adapted to this Degree of Subordination; but we do not deny, nor can we reprobate, or disapprove of, their claim to all the Rights, and Privileges of British Subjects compatible with the check & Control exerciseable by the British Legislature for the important purpose of securing, directing, & regulating their commercial Instrumentality, the original view in settling the American Plantations, nor can we wish them to renounce that Right of Property, w^{ch} protects the owner's Enjoyment of it by securing it against the Disposal of others without his Consent, a Right w^{ch} we conceive to be inseparable from the Nature of Property, without w^{ch} Liberty can't exist, & our Charter notwithstanding the Energy & Precision of its Language, notwithstanding the royal Faith solemnly plighted that no part of the Compact it contains, shou'd be violated, or impeached, notwithstanding the various confirmatory Sanctions it has recev'd wou'd become a Delusion, so far our Sentiments correspond with the general persuasion, & in our present Avowal of them, we only repeat our Declaration on a former occasion, tho' we very much disapprove of the violences, w^{ch} some rash Men have committed & are not satisfied of the propriety, Utility or Expediency of some Measures that have been recommended, yet are we disposed to make favorable Allowances in the present general Perturbation of Men's Minds flowing from their firm persuasion that the Defence of Liberty requires extraordinary Exertions, & we observe with pleasure that tho' your Excell^y cant approve, yet your Humanity inclines you to view them with Indulgence.

[Indorsed August 29, 1776.]