

humbly beg Leave to approach the Throne, by representing to your Majesty, That these Colonies were Originally Planted by Subjects of the *British* Crown, who, animated with the Spirit of Liberty, encouraged by your Majesty's Royal Predecessors, and confiding in the Public Faith for the Enjoyment of all the Rights and Liberties essential to Freedom, emigrated from their Native Country to this Continent, and by their successful Perseverance in the midst of innumerable Dangers and Difficulties, together with a Profusion of their Blood and Treasure, have happily added these vast and valuable Dominions to the Empire of *Great-Britain*. That for the Enjoyment of these Rights and Liberties, several Governments were early formed in the said Colonies, with full Power of Legislation, agreeable to the Principles of the *English* Constitution.

That under those Governments, these Liberties, thus vested in their Ancestors, and transmitted to their Posterity, have been exercised and enjoyed, and by the inestimable Blessings thereof (under the Favour of Almighty GOD), the inhospitable Desarts of *America* have been converted into Flourishing Countries; Science, Humanity, and the Knowledge of Divine Truths, diffused through Remote Regions of Ignorance, Infidelity, and Barbarism; the Number of *British* Subjects wonderfully Increased, and the Wealth and Power of *Great-Britain* proportionably Augmented.

That by Means of these Settlements, and the unparalleled Success of your Majesty's Arms, a Foundation is now laid for rendering the *British* Empire the most Extensive and Powerful of any Recorded in History. Our Connection with this Empire, we esteem our greatest Happiness and Security, and humbly conceive it may now be so established by your Royal Wisdom, as to endure to the latest Period of Time; This, with most humble Submission to your Majesty, we apprehend will be most effectually Accomplished, by fixing the Pillars thereof on Liberty and Justice, and securing the inherent Rights and Liberties of your Subjects here, upon the Principles of the *English* Constitution. To this Constitution these Two Principles are essential, the Right of your faithful Subjects, freely to grant to your Majesty, such Aids as are required for the Support of your Government over them, and other Public Exigencies, and Trials by their Peers: By the One they are secured from unreasonable Impositions; and by the Other from Arbitrary Decisions of the executive Power.

The Continuation of these Liberties to the Inhabitants of *America* we ardently Implore, as absolutely necessary to Unite the several Parts of your wide extended Dominions, in that Harmony so Essential to the Preservation and Happiness of the Whole. Protected in these Liberties, the Emoluments *Great-Britain* receives from us, however great at present, are inconsiderable, compared with those she has the fairest Prospect of acquiring. By this Protection she will for ever secure to herself the Advantage of conveying to all *Europe*, the Merchandizes which *America* furnishes, and of Supplying through the same Channel whatever is wanted from thence. Here opens a boundless Source of Wealth and Naval Strength; yet these immense Advantages, by the Abridgment of those invaluable Rights and Liberties, by which our Growth has been Nourished, are in Danger of
being