

has not the power, and from his acknowledged goodness, we may venture to say, not the Inclination to change the government of his subjects without the authority of parliament. When therefore it became a measure of public discussion and design of this Address, if it should fail of convincing your Lordship, is to excite some honest heart, some spirit friendly to government, and the rights of mankind, to interpose and save nearly two hundred thousand useful and obedient subjects from falling into the pit of Independence, where American happiness, freedom, and commerce lie buried — I know these Arguments will be treated with contempt by those who do not wish conviction, and sneered at by those who have an interest to persevere: but I flatter myself his Majesty's Ministers will consider the Subject, and if they do, I am sure their good sense will prevent the mischief. If this provokes a public discussion of the Measure, so sure am I of the goodness of the side I have taken — but I shall persevere with Zeal, and I flatter myself with conviction to every man of candour and discernment.

Probus.

Copy to Lord Sydney

house... and probably in arranging and determining their immunities, like the infant Assembly in Georgia, they will vote themselves entitled to all the privileges of the British parliament.

Seeing and knowing the particular Interest, and peculiar wants of their constituents, whenever these come in their opinion in competition with the general good: it is supposing more patriotism than belongs to common humanity, to expect they will sacrifice the former to the latter — Not placed on an Eminence sufficiently exalted to view the whole prospect: other than partial pursuits cannot be expected from this Assembly. If France were to appoint a Monarch to govern her Colonies, dependent principally upon the good will and support of the Colonists, we should soon see and condemn the folly of such measure, and we should boldly pronounce their government mad, or that it intended a separation of the former dependency, yet we felt no difficulty in appointing, or constituting an Assembly: that I contend must govern the Colony in Effect, or else it is of no use, and from the nature of the thing the Assembly must depend on the governed, and this folly passes with us as an effort of policy, and by cutting off from the dependence on, we think we are extending the Influence of the British constitution — My Lord surely you cannot have forgotten, how soon the late Colonies were organized to resist us, and nine times out of Ten the very

Letter to Lord Sydney.

1785