



without great assistance from the main they would be continually exposed to the resentment of government. They therefore determined to observe a strict neutrality - as far as possible. -

The Rebels (altho aware to a relinquishment of their dominion over them) did not suppose them of so much consequence as to risk an army in their defence - but left them to make the best terms they could obtain on all occasions, still exercising a power of taxation - & obliging them to observe the laws established by their usurp^d power, &c. Since Maj^r Gen: Grey left them (15th Sept^r 1770.) no troops have made any requisitions or demands upon them. but they have without interruption (except from the rebels) ^{or} pursued their former occupations, & their intercourse & commerce with the Rebels has been unrestrained.

Thus circumstanced, we found them, & it was very apparent that their "leanings were towards the Americans". The dark side of matters had been most exposed to them - & an infinite variety of stories were propagated with unceasing assiduity relative to the war - all without foundation, & they had really indulged themselves in a habit of reasoning & conclusions which in a little time more might have fixed them firmly on the side of rebellion. It was our first endeavor to contradict some of their general assertions with as much gentleness as possible, and by degrees to communicate such intelligence relative to public matters as I knew to be facts. Particularly - That a reinforcement was arriv^d. - That the British nation were not apparently disconcerted at the declaration of war from the Court of Madrid. - That the Independence of America would