

On the 23d of May 1780, Sir Henry Clinton issued a proclamation, wherein, in his Majesty's name, he called on and commanded all persons whatsoever, to be aiding and assisting to his forces, whenever they should be required, in order to extirpate the rebellion; and for the encouragement of the King's faithful and peaceable subjects, he assured them, "that they should meet with *effectual countenance, protection, and support*;" and the same requisition and assurances were with equal solemnity repeated in a subsequent proclamation published by Sir Henry Clinton and Vice-Admiral Arbuthnot, as his Majesty's Commissioners to restore peace and good government in the several colonies in rebellion, on the first of June following.

In the year 1778, the Congress, desirous of weakening the British power, and of gaining over the influence and assistance of the Loyalists, by a resolve, recommended to the several States to repeal the sanguinary laws made against them, and to restore their property which had been confiscated; and overtures were made by General Washington to take them under his protection; but although they had reason to apprehend, from the evacuation of Philadelphia by order of the British government,

ment, the subsequent movement of the troops from America to the West Indies, and the numbers in both Houses of Parliament against carrying on the war in the colonies, that they were about to be deserted by the British arms; yet, with this prospect of distress, which no language can describe, they considered their allegiance to his Majesty, and their connection with their fellow-subjects, *as sacred and inviolable*; the infallible consequence of which was, a more general attainder of their lives, and a confiscation of their fortunes; although, had they then withdrawn from their allegiance, they might have obtained a repeal of the laws attainting their lives, and been restored to their property. Under these circumstances, painful as they were, they never complained. Their *loyalty* and *zeal* in the cause of the *State* remained undiminished, or rather kept pace with their encreasing distress. All the tender ties of the parent, husband, and son, were overcome by their public virtue; nor did they desert the sinking cause of their country until *she deserted it herself*. Thus led forth from the *rest* of their fellow-subjects, by their duty to the State, their obedience to his Majesty's command, and the assurances of both Houses of Parliament, they firmly confided in the *royal faith*, and the