tined him to leave a memorable and ſalutary example. He was not dazzled by the proſpect of being elevated to the chief command of the military force of America. In his opinion, nothing could juſtify a recurrence to the ſword, and a revolt from eſtabliſhed authority, but extreme neceſſity. All reaſonable means of redreſs ſhould be tried, before a good citizen will diſſolve the fabric of government, and expoſe a people to the convulſive ſhocks of a revolution, the exploſions of which no conſiderate man can promiſe himſelf to regulate, or foreſee their termination.

A reflection here forces itſelf upon my mind, which I ought not to withold from my reſpectable auditors. Would to God, that the principal authors and leaders of the many revolutions, through which unhappy France has paſſed in the courſe of a few years, would to God, that they had been influenced by a morality as pure and enlightened, as that of Waſhington, and his aſſociates in the firſt Congreſs! What ſcenes of carnage and cruelty! what private woes and public calamity would have been ſpared to that ill-fated country? and how ſacred and venerable would have ſtill remained to it the ſanctuary of religion?

Waſhington and his colleagues obeying at the ſame time the dictates of patriotiſm, and the duty of allegiance, repreſented their wrongs to their Sovereign, and claimed their rights. On the event of their remonſtrance, depended the redreſs of their grievances; or, if no redreſs followed, their juſtification for ſtand-

ing on their defence. Britain would not relent, and all, that remained to America, was ſubmiſſion, or reſiſtance. The election was ſoon made; every one prepared himſelf for the awful conteſt, and all eyes and hopes were turned towards Waſhington. With univerſal approbation he was ſummoned to place himſelf in the front of danger, and aſſume ſupreme military command. The poſſeſſion of ſuch a citizen, at a moment ſo critical, was an invaluable treaſure, and an animating preſage of the favourable iſſue of the great conteſt.

But far other thoughts abſorbed his attention. Modeſt, as he was eminent in valour and wiſdom, he contemplated with mingled emotions of ſelf-diffidence, and generous reſolution, the important ſtake placed in his hands; the ſubjection or independence; the vaſſalage or freedom of an immenſe territory, deſtined to be the habitation of countleſs millions. When therefore, in obedience to the voice of his country, he placed himſelf at the head of her army, the expreſſions of his dependence on Providence ſhould never be forgotten. Claiming no perſonal merit, apprehenſive of injuring the public intereſt through ſome miſconduct; yet truſting to the juſtice of his cauſe, and conſcious of the purity of his motives, he called upon his fellow citizens to remember, that he depended for ſucceſs, not on his own military ſkill, but on the God of battles, to whom he made his ſolemn appeal.

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