for nothing; and pray what is it that Britain can do, whoſe power will be wholly on paper, ſhould a civil tumult break out the very day after reconciliation? I have heard ſome men ſay, many of whom I believe ſpoke without thinking, that they dreaded an independance, fearing that it would produce civil wars: It is but ſeldom that our firſt thoughts are truly correct, and that is the caſe here; for there are ten times more to dread from a patched up connection, than from independance. I make the ſufferers caſe my own, and I proteſt, that were I driven from houſe and home, my property deſtroyed, and my circumſtances ruined, that as a man ſenſible of injuries, I could never reliſh the doctrine of reconciliation, or conſider myſelf bound thereby.

The Colonies hath manifeſted ſuch a ſpirit of good order and obedience to Continental government, as is ſufficient to make every reaſonable perſon eaſy and happy on that head. No man can aſſign the leaſt pretence for his fears, on any other grounds, than ſuch as are truly childiſh and ridiculous, viz. that one colony will be ſtriving for ſuperiority over another.

Where

Where there are no diſtinctions, there can be no ſuperiority; perfect equality affords no temptation. The Republics of Europe are all, (and we may ſay always) in peace. Holland and Swiſſerland, are without wars, foreign or domeſtic: Monarchical governments, it is true, are never long at reſt; the crown itſelf is a temptation to enterpriſing ruffians at home; and that degree of pride and inſolence ever attendant on regal authority, ſwells into a rupture with foreign powers in inſtances, where a republican government by being formed on more natural principles, would negociate the miſtake.

If there is any true cauſe of fear reſpecting independance, it is becauſe no plan is yet laid down. Men do not ſee their way out—Wherefore, as an opening into that buſineſs I offer the following hints; at the ſame time modeſtly affirming, that I have no other opinion of them myſelf, than that they may be the means of giving riſe to ſomething better. Could the ſtraggling thoughts of individuals be collected, they would frequently form materials for wiſe and able men to improve into uſeful matter.

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http://myloc.gov/Exhibitions/creatingtheus/DeclarationofIndependence/FoundedonaSetofBeliefs/ExhibitObjects/PainesNewAmericanGovernment.aspx

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