In answer to Paine’s “Common Sense”

I HAVE now before me the Pamphlet, entitled COMMON SENSE; on which I shall remark with freedom and [honesty].

His [Paine’s] first indecent attack is against the English constitution; which with all its imperfections, is, and ever will be the pride and envy of mankind… He indeed insidiously (sneakily) attributes this pre-eminent (superior) excellency, to the constitution of the people, rather than to our excellent constitution. … This beautiful system (according to MONTESQUIEU) our (the British) constitution is a [combination] of Monarchy, Aristocracy, and Democracy…Were I asked marks of the best government, and the purpose of political society, I would reply, the increase, preservation, and prosperity of its members, in no quarter of the Globe, are those marks so certainly to be found, as in Great Britain, and her dependencies… He says, “The plain truth is, that the antiquity (old/ancient) of English Monarchy will not bear looking into.”

…“that no government is so subject to CIVIL WARS, and INTESTINE COMMOTIONS (domestic chaos/with in the country), as that of the democratical or popular form; because, no other tends so strongly and so constantly to alter, nor requires so much [attention], and [determination] to preserve it from alteration. …

…Can a reasonable being for a moment believe that Great Britain, whose political existence depends on our (the colonists’) constitutional obedience, who but yesterday made such prodigious (enormous) efforts to save us from France, will not exert herself as powerfully to preserve us from our frantic schemes of independency. Can we a moment doubt, that the Sovereign (king) of Great Britain and his ministers, whose glory as well as personal safety depends on our obedience, will not exert every nerve of the British power, to save themselves and us from ruin.

Our author (Thomas Paine) “challenges the warmest advocate for reconciliation to show a single advantage this Continent can reap, by being connected with Great Britain. I repeat the challenge, not a single advantage is derived (acquired): Our corn will fetch its price in any market in Europe:” The greatest part of our plank, staves, shingles, hoops, corn, beef, pork herrings, and many other articles, could find no vent (outlet), but in the English Islands. The demand for our flour would also be considerably lessened. The Spaniards have no demand for these articles; and the French little or none. Britain would be a principal mart for our lumber, part of our grain, naval stores, tobacco, and many other articles, which perhaps are not generally wanted in any kingdom in Europe.

Volumes were insufficient to describe the horror, misery and desolation, awaiting the people at large in the form of American independence. In short, I affirm (declare) that it would be most excellent policy in those who wish for TRUE LIBERTY to submit by an advantageous reconciliation to the authority of Great Britain.
Loyalist Arguments
as made by James Chalmersx in *Plain Truth*

Claim on Government/ Constitution

Support:

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Claim on Protection

Support:

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Claim on Economics

Support:

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