

“Plain Truth”

By James Chalmers

(Candidus)

1776

Why shouldn't the colonies seek Independence?

- “The judicious reader will...(abhor) independency...which will plunge our once envied country into ruin, horror, and desolation.”

What do the colonies get from Britain?

- “At present, Great Britain is the umpire of Europe...”
- “The English constitution... is and ever will be the pride and envy of mankind.... Individuals are safer in England than in any other part of Europe.”
- “Commerce and protection of Great Britain will secure us peace, and the friendship of all Europe...”
- “Innumerable are the advantages of our connection with Britain; and a just dependence on her is a sure way to avoid the horrors and calamities of war...”

What would happen if the colonies were to rebel?

- “Suppose our troops assembled in New England, if the Britons see not fit to assail them, they haste to and desolate our other provinces, which eventually would reduce New England.”
- “Our most fertile provinces, filled with domestic enemies, slaves, intersected by navigable rivers, everywhere accessible to the fleets and armies of Britain.”
- “The French and Spaniards are wretched politicians if they do not assist England... Can we believe those parties will offer an example so dangerous to their subjects and colonies?”
- “When independent, we cannot trade with Europe without political connections... All treaties (are) made by England.”
- “Independence and slavery are synonymous terms.”

So what's the plan?

- “I see no reason to doubt that Great Britain may not long retain us in constitutional obedience... Ingratefully should we endeavor to precipitate her political demise, she will devise every expedient to retain our obedience...”
- “This continent fifty years hence infallibly will be richer and much better peopled than at present, (and) consequently abler to effect a revolution.”