

RS#08: Selected Paragraphs from *Plain Truth*

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PLAIN TRUTH

by *James Chalmers (Candidus)*

An abridged edition of the March 1776 pamphlet written as a response to Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*. Chalmers was a loyalist from the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Plain Truth	Plain Truth Paraphrased
<p style="text-align: center;">INTRODUCTION.</p> <p>IF indignant at the Doctrine contained in the Pamphlet, entitled COMMON SENSE: I have expressed myself, in the following Observations, with some ardor; I entreat the Reader to impute my indignation, to honest zeal against the Author's Insidious Tenets. Animated and impelled by every inducement of the Human Heart; I love, and (if I dare so express myself,) I adore my Country. Passionately devoted to true Liberty; I glow with the purest flame of Patriotism. Silver'd with age as I am, if I know myself, my humble Sword shall not be wanting to my Country; (if the most Honorable Terms are not tendered by the British Nation) to whose Sacred Cause, I am most fervently devoted. The judicious Reader, will not impute my honest, tho' bold Remarks, to unfriendly designs against my Children --- against my Country; but to abhorrence of Independency; which if effected, would inevitably plunge our once pre-eminently envied Country into Ruin, Horror, and Desolation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction</p> <p>Angry at the position taken in the Pamphlet, entitled COMMON SENSE, I have expressed myself with some passion. Animated and driven by every influence of the Human Heart, I love, and (if I dare express myself) I adore my Country. Passionately devoted to true Liberty, I glow with the purest flame of Patriotism. Old as I am, if I know myself, I will fight for my Country. The wise Reader, will not think my honest Remarks go against my Children and my Country but go against them becoming Independent. If independence is carried out we will inevitably plunge our Country into Ruin, Horror, and Desolation.</p>
<p>I HAVE now before me the Pamphlet, entitled COMMON SENSE; on which I shall remark with freedom and candour.</p>	<p>I HAVE now before me the Pamphlet, entitled COMMON SENSE; on which I shall remark with freedom and openness.</p>

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<p>This beautiful system (according to MONTESQUIEU) our constitution is a compound of Monarchy, Aristocracy, and Democracy. But it is often said, that the Sovereign, by honours and appointments, influences the Commons. The profound and elegant HUME agitating this question, thinks, to this circumstance, we are in part indebted for our supreme felicity; since without such controul in the Crown, our Constitution would immediately degenerate into Democracy; a Government, which in the sequel, I hope to prove ineligible.</p>	<p>The British government is a beautiful system because it is ruled by the king, the upper class, and the people. The King influences the People. Without such control of the King, our government would decline into <u>Democracy</u>, a government just run by the people, which I hope to prove unwise.</p>
<p>After his terrible anathema against our venerable constitution, and monarchy; let us briefly examine a democratical state; and see whether of not it is a government less sanguinary...If we examine the republics of Greece and Rome, we ever find them in a state of war domestic or foreign...</p>	<p>After Thomas Paine’s detestable writing against our <u>constitution</u>, and <u>monarchy</u>; let us briefly examine a <u>democratic</u> state; and see whether or not it is a less bloodthirsty government. If we examine Greece and Rome which are run by the people, we continually find them in a state of war.</p>
<p>Can a reasonable being for a moment believe that Great Britain, whose political existence depends on our constitutional obedience, who but yesterday made such prodigious 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 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.</p>	<p>Can a reasonable person for a moment believe that Great Britain, who earlier made such monstrous efforts to save us from France, will not powerfully prevent us from gaining independence. Can we doubt that the King of Great Britain will not try everything to avoid losing the Thirteen Colonies.</p>

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<p>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. Our author surely forgets, that when independent, we cannot trade with Europe, without political connections, and that all treaties made by England or other commercial states are, or ought to be, ultimately subservient to their commerce.</p>	<p>There are many advantages of our connection with Britain; It will cause us to avoid the horrors and misfortune of war. Paine surely forgets that when we are independent, we cannot trade with Europe because the <u>treaties</u> are made under England’s name.</p>
<p>Volumes were insufficient to describe the horror, misery and desolation, awaiting the people at large in the Syren form of American independence. In short, I affirm 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; “to accomplish in the long run, what they cannot do by hypocrisy, fraud and force in the short one.”</p> <p>INDEPENDENCE AND SLAVERY ARE SYNONYMOUS TERMS.</p> <p>FINIS</p>	<p>An entire set of books isn’t room enough to describe the horror, misery, and devastation, awaiting the people who are trying to gain American independence. In short, I declare that it would be excellent for those people who wish for TRUE LIBERTY to settle this dispute with Great Britain.</p> <p>Independence and slavery are the same thing.</p> <p>The End.</p>

Glossary:

constitution – the fundamental policies on which a state is governed

democracy – government where the power is held by the people

monarchy – government where the power is held by a king/queen

treaty - agreement between nations