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questioning his fellow ministers: "Who of you reasoning upon this subject feels warmly from the heart for the Americans as they would for themselves or as you would for the people of your own native country?"

The climax of the debate came when the towering, one-eyed Barré responded angrily to remarks in favor of the bill by Charles Townshend, another member of the Commons. Townshend had concluded his talk: "And now will these Americans, children planted by our care, nourished up by our indulgence until they are grown to a degree of strength and opulence, and protected by our arms, will they grudge to contribute their mite to relieve us from the heavy weight of that burden which we lie under?"

Barré, "with [his] Eye darting Fire, and an outstretched Arm," jumped to his feet and countered:

Isaac Barre

They planted by your care? No! Your oppressions planted 'em in America. They fled from your tyranny to a then uncultivated and inhospitable country where they exposed themselves to almost all the hardships to which human nature is liable. . . . And yet, actuated by principles of true English liberty, they met all these hardships with pleasure, compared with those they suffered in their own country, from the hands of those who should have been their friends.

They nourished by your indulgence? They grew by your neglect of 'em. As soon as you began to care about 'em, that care was exercised in sending persons to rule over 'em . . . men whose behavior on many occasions has caused the blood of those sons of liberty* to recoil within them. . . .

They protected by your arms? They have nobly taken up arms in your defence. . . . The [American] people I believe are as truly loyal as any subjects the king has, but a people jealous of their liberties and who will vindicate them if ever they should be violated; but the subject is too delicate and I will say no more.²

*The phrase "sons of liberty" would resound throughout America and come to symbolize colon rights in the face of British oppression.