



NOTICE & NOTE

deprive
(dĭ-prĭv') v. to keep from possessing or enjoying; deny.

QUOTED WORDS

Notice & Note: Mark the "christian principal" that Adams, the daughter of a minister, refers to in paragraph 1.

Analyze: What does this reveal about her attitude toward slavery in the colony?

tyrannical
(tĭ-răn'ĭ-kəl): *adj.* characteristic of a tyrant or tyranny; despotic and oppressive.

impunity
(ĭm-pyoo'ně-tē): *n.* exemption from punishment, penalty, or harm.

abhor
(ăb-hôr'): *v.* to regard with horror or loathing; detest.

ANALYZE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

Annotate: In paragraph 3, mark phrases describing the nature of men, according to Adams.

Draw Conclusions: What might her purpose for using these phrases be?

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS

Annotate: Mark each "title" Adams refers to in paragraph 3.

Analyze: What effect does her choice of these words have on her tone?

produced a Washington but they have been shamefully duped by a Dunmore.³ I have sometimes been ready to think that the passion for Liberty cannot be Equally Strong in the Breasts of those who have been accustomed to **deprive** their fellow Creatures of theirs.⁴ Of this I am certain that it is not founded upon that generous and christian principal of doing to others as we would that others should do unto us. . . .

2 I long to hear that you have declared an independancy—and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If pertuculiar care and attention is not paid to the Laidies we are determined to foment⁵ a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.

3 That your Sex are Naturally **Tyrannical** is a Truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no dispute, but such of you as wish to be happy willingly give up the harsh title of Master for the more tender and endearing one of Friend. Why then, not put it out of the power of the vicious and the Lawless to use us with cruelty and indignity with **impunity**. Men of Sense in all Ages **abhor** those customs which treat us only as the vassals of your Sex. Regard us then as Beings placed by providence under your protection and in imitation of the Supreme Being make use of that power only for our happiness.

³ **Dunmore:** Lord Dunmore was the last British governor of Virginia. In April 1775, in reaction to events in Boston, Dunmore had all the gunpowder in Williamsburg confiscated. Then, in November 1775, he offered freedom to any slaves or indentured servants who would leave and join the British to fight the colonists.

⁴ **I have sometimes . . . of theirs:** Adams is referring to slavery, which was common in Virginia. She questioned whether those who denied slaves freedom would not really have a passion for freedom.

⁵ **foment** (fō-měnt'): to arouse or incite.