

of modifying and regulating the quantity of public supplies, and the manner of laying taxes. They decide upon what the legislature ought to receive for the support of the state; but the Commons, by their own authority, cannot enforce the raising the supplies they vote. That privilege is inherent in the supreme and unaccountable power, vested in the three branches of the Legislature united, who are in fact the State, as the virtual representatives of the whole Empire, and not the delegates of individuals.

"If representation is virtual in Great Britain, why then is it not virtual in the Colonies? The people of the four northern Provinces, though they deny the fact in words, own it in their conduct; near one third of the corporations in New England, chuse no representatives, to save the expence of paying their deputies. They however own the right of their Assemblies, to impose taxes, and to make laws to bind the whole community, as the representatives of the whole Colony. The truth is, representation has no more to do with the right of taxation, than with every other right exercised by the supreme and superintending power. It is interwoven with the very essence of the legislative power, and is exerted by that power for the necessary support of the State*.

Why

* This example of the corporations of New England which chuse no representatives, strongly illustrates the argument which I have stated. The taxes imposed by the Assembly of the