

SKETCH OF PRIOR EVENTS.

1713. The national debt 9,000,000*l.*—In 1731 forty-eight millions.
1734. The Board of Trade report their enquiry into the state of the royal and chartered governments in America to the House of Lords.
1748. The colonies of New England raise, arm, and transport to the siege of Louisbourg 4000 men, at their own expence.
1754. First settlers on the Susquehannah river, from Connecticut.
— First appearance of an intention to tax America.
— The colonies wish to be represented in the British Parliament.
1759. *April 30.* The House of Commons, in compliance with his Majesty's message, grant 200,000*l.* towards a compensation for the extraordinary exertions and expence the American colonies had been at "in defence of his Majesty's just rights and possessions."
1764. *March 10.* The House of Commons resolve to levy a tax on all goods imported into America from the French and other West-India Islands, to regulate trade and suppress smuggling.—Bill received the Royal assent *April 5.*
1765. *Feb.* Stamp-act, imposing a tax on 53 sorts of stamps in North America, carried in the House of Commons by 245 to 49.—Received the Royal assent the 22*d.*
— *May 29.* Virginia took the lead in opposing the Stamp-act.
— *June 8.* Massachusetts's Bay vote 450*l.* to pay the expences of their three Delegates to Congress.
— *Aug. 26.* Rioters at Boston destroy the Lieutenant-Governor's house, &c.
— *Oct. 1.* First general Continental Congress at New York, who, after several resolutions, declarations, &c. petition his Majesty for a redress of grievances on the 22*d.*
— *Oct. 5.* Assembly of Massachusetts's Bay deem it lawful to do business without stamps, and the militia refuse to obey the orders of the Governor.
1766. *Jan. 1.* Non-importation of British goods takes place in the associated colonies of North America.
— *Feb. 10.* The British Parliament asserts its legislative authority over the North American colonies.
— *March.* Stamp-act repealed in the House of Commons by 275 to 167: in the Lords by 105 to 71.—Protest of 33 entered, *March 10.*—Received the Royal assent on the 18*th.*
— *March 18.* Declaratory-act received the Royal assent.
— *June 6.* Bill to indemnify persons in America from penalties incurred by the Stamp act.
— *Dec. 6.* Act of indemnification and oblivion passed by the Assembly of Massachusetts's Bay.
— *Dec.* The Assembly of Massachusetts's Bay deny the legislative authority of the British Parliament.
1767. *Jan. 28.* The Assembly of Massachusetts's Bay refuse to provide for the troops at Boston.
— *June 29.* Bill for granting certain duties in the British colonies and plantations of North America, received the Royal assent. Also, an act for the better regulation of the Customs and Duties.

Oct. 27. The