

Let us next see if it can be justified by recent provocation.

You all know, my brethren, the necessity of taxes for the support of the state. As we give up part of our natural liberty, and submit to be restrained by laws, that our persons and property may be safe from the criminal invasions of other men, we likewise yield part of our property to secure the rest: That is, to pay the necessary expence of government and the execution of the laws; to support the supreme magistrate and his judges and officers in suitable dignity, and to defray the expence of fleets and armies, for the common defence and protection of the whole. And, lest the covetous should withhold his share, the law forces it out of his hoard, that the rest of his fellow-citizens may not pay more than their just proportion. By the happy constitution of our country, these taxes are not arbitrary demands, but laid on by the representatives of the people, with the consent of the house of Lords and the Sovereign; so that no nation was ever so well secured against an oppressive or unequal taxation.

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