

People of this Colony, just begining to emerge from the Misery into which the late War had involved them. It is natural to suppose that had the Public been duly informed of the Necessity there was for such a Tax, they would have hit upon a more proper and more able Object from whence it should have been levied; but this they never had an Opportunity of proposing, the Affair having been carried on in such a circumspect and quiet Manner, that till very lately not a great many in the Province (Taxers and Taxed excepted) knew any Thing of the Matter. The Hopes and good Wishes of the Worshipful Bench here lavished upon the Grand-Jury do really claim their particular Regard, and the Compliment paid them by their Worthips, of the Want of either Influence, Interest in, or Knowledge of the Province, does not seem calculated for this Country, but for the Understandings of Foreigners who know neither the Bench nor Jury.

XI. Notwithstanding the *Abyss of Appeals*, we refer to the Presentment, which to our common Understandings does not seem to demand any Thing unreasonable, or mean Offence to any one. If a Decision has been given, for Want of proper Information, to the Prejudice of any Subject of Fifty or One Hundred Pounds, he will naturally expect to be redressed.

XII. The Ordinance itself must here be referred to; the Subject of this Presentment is more fully explained in a subsequent one made by the Protestant Members of the Jury, which cannot fail of being understood; yet we must observe that its Meaning has been already totally perverted, and Measures taken thereupon that savour much of Quixotism.

XIII. Perhaps the Methods proposed by the Jury, out of their *great Skill and Knowledge* in these Matters, might have shared the Fate of their other Presentments, but Time was not allowed them to put this to the Trial.

XIV. This Stricture being a pitiful Pun deserves no further Remark.

We come now to the Presentment made by the Protestant Members of the Jury, wherein the impannelling of Roman Catholicks upon Grand and Petty-Juries, even where two Protestants are the Parties, is complained of.—As this very Presentment has been openly and ungenerously used as a Handle to set His Majesty's old and new Subjects at Variance in this Province, we cannot help endeavouring to set the Public right in this Particular, in which they have been so grossly imposed on: What gave Birth to this Presentment, was the following short, but pithy Paragraph, in the Ordinance of the 17th Day of *September* last. "In all Tryals in this Court all his Majesty's Subjects in this Colony to be admitted on Juries without any Distinction:" This is qualifying the whole Province at once for an Office which the best and most sensible People in it are hardly able to discharge: It then occurred to the Jury that this was laying a Subject's Life, Liberty and Property too open, and that both old and new Subjects might be apprehensive of the Consequences from the unlimited Admission of Jurymen.