

THAT Governours are apt to abuse their Power, and grow rich by Oppression, Experience shows us. We have seen, not many Years since, some Governours seiz'd by their injur'd People, and sent Prisoners to *Whitehall*, there to answer for their Offences. Others have fallen Victims on the Spot, not to the Fury of a Faction or a Rabble, but to the Resentment of the whole Body of the People, rising as one Man to revenge their Wrongs. Others, after being recall'd, have been prosecuted at the *King's-Bench Bar*, pursuant to an Act of Parliament made in the Reign of the late King WILLIAM, whereby it is provided, That Governours shall be impleadable at Home for any Injuries done in their Governments Abroad. We have had more than one flagrant Instance of this very lately, where Governours have been convicted and censur'd, not so properly for oppressing, as for a direct plundering the People, and such other Acts of Misrule and lawless Power, as one would not have thought it possible they should have committed, if Experience had not shown it to be more than possible.

I DON'T however intend, by what is here said, to reproach our own Nation, as if we were greater Sinners than others, or to reflect on the present Times, as if they were worse than the former. I know that the same Abuses have been practis'd in every Age as well as this, and in foreign Colonies as well as our own. The ancient *Romans* were as brave and as vertuous a People as any in the World, and yet their Proconsuls or Governours were very Guilty in this Respect. Their Corruption was so notorious as to be distinguish'd by the Name of *Crimen Repetundarum*, a Phrase not us'd in any other Meaning, and deriv'd from the Obligation which the *Roman* Senate laid on their Governours to make Restitution.

NOR have the modern Governours in the *French* and *Spanish* Plantations been less Criminal. It's a famous Story of a Great Minister at the Court of *Madrid*, who writ to his Friend the Vice-Roy of *Peru*, that great Complaints were made against him, for having extorted immense Sums of Money from the People in his Government; *Which*, says he, *I wish may be true, or else you are undone.* It seems the same Thing that wounded him was necessary