

# THE FREE PRESS.

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—“Be our plain answer this—we seek no change—and  
least of all, such change as they would give us.”

SHERIDAN—Pizarro.

Mr. Editor,

Perusing an old collection of political pamphlets the other day, the following letter, which was originally published in the Public Ledger, of 13th September 1770, appeared to me to give so just and precise a view of what acts of the Imperial Parliament can be constitutionally binding upon the colonies, and what not, as well as of the lines of demarcation, between the powers and privileges of the two subordinate branches of the legislature, that I think its republication at the present juncture, almost upon the eve of the meeting of our parliament, may not be uninteresting. I shall be glad to see your own remarks upon it.

MODERATOR.

“That the disputes of the colonies with their mother country have been so intricate and puzzling to many, is owing entirely to a want of duly comprehending the constitution: for, from the moment that our parliaments became divided into two distinct houses, a very material difference was established between the laws of England, and the laws of Taxation.

“A bill for amending, explaining, or adding to the laws of England, may be prepared and brought in by either house of parliament, and by which ever of the two houses it is prepared and brought in, it may be amended by the other: if amended, the amendment will be taken into consideration, by the house where it was brought in, and, if approved of, will be agreed to, and the bill, with the Royal assent, passed into a law. But a bill for explaining, amending, or adding to our laws of taxation, must be prepared and brought in, only by the house of commons, and can not so much as be amended by the house of lords. If their lordships should make any material amendment to such a bill, the other house would not, I believe, so much as order it to be taken into consideration; but if, upon the face of it, the amendment appeared necessary, they would drop that bill, and order a new bill for the same purpose to be prepared and brought into their own house.

“In a word, the laws of England are all supposed to be made