

ing the Custom-House books, which prove that the decrease of our trade began, *before* the Stamp-Act was ever thought of. Indeed, there are many concurring reasons to be produced, which contribute to this disagreeable circumstance. There are at present in America fifty thousand persons fewer, and a million and an half of money less, than during the late war: her markets too are overstocked with our commodities; besides which, a shameful and illicit trade is carried on thither, from different parts of Europe. It is to extend this illicit trade, and to throw off *the Act of Navigation*, that the Colonies are now in a state of uproar and sedition. *Here* they are galled—*here* it is that the shoe pinches: let this *little* circumstance be removed, this *insignificant Act of Parliament* be repealed, and I will engage for the Americans, that they shall pay the Stamp-Duty with the utmost cheerfulness. Though they are now forward and techy, give them hopes of this, and they will be all duty and obedience. Like *Regan* and *Goneril*, they will coax their good old Parent, 'till we have given
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