

trade,) but only that such breach, if discovered, is *surely punished*. What more can be said of the best country upon earth? Yet Governor Hutchinson does not scruple to charge them with having been all smugglers, and to throw an odium upon their struggling for their rights by the imputation of their sole object being to renew that illicit trade with impunity.

It must also appear from their proceedings, that their great crime has been their constancy in petitioning for redress of grievances; which has been attempted to be repressed, even by the most unjustifiable means of refusing them an agent to vindicate them when misrepresented, and support their complaints. While this common right of justice is denied them, persons are notoriously hired here to load them in the public papers with every species of opprobrium, falsehood, and abuse. There are two things which deserve the most particular attention: 1st, That whenever affidavits were taken on the part of the people, they were taken in public, with summonses to all persons concerned to attend, and cross examine the witnesses: on the contrary, those which were obtained by the governor and commissioners, accusing the people, were made in secret, the persons accused unapprized and totally ignorant of the proceeding, they were transmitted in secret, and the injured persons by mere accidents, and after they had operated to their hurt, had an opportunity of seeing and refuting them. The instances on both sides will be found in the affidavits taken on the seizure of the sloop Liberty, and the riot, and in Mr. Oliver's affidavit, and the narrative of the town, respecting the massacre on the 5th of March. 2d. That the chief and almost only continual witnesses against the people,

are, the Governors Bernard and Hutchinson: the former of whom has long laboured under an accusation upon oath of gross corruption in his office; the latter has been detected in the basest plot against their liberties; and both are at open enmity with the people, having been petitioned against by their representatives, as universally odious. How far the representatives of men so circumstanced can be presumed fair and impartial, or deserve credit, must be left to the candid to determine.

We have seen their petitions either intercepted, or treated with a contemptuous silence, or answered with the severest censures. Seven years supplication has brought no relief. And now, to fill up the measure of their misfortunes, their port is stopp'd up, their charter is to be subverted, and a lawless army let loose upon them. They have been tried, condemned and punished, unheard and unapprized of the whole proceeding. They are left to weep over their apprehensions, realized in the utter subversion of their liberties. This accumulation of calamities is heaped upon them, because high and strong resentments, as they naturally must, have followed severe and reiterated injuries: because discontent has arisen from disappointed and despised complaints; and violence from insured discontent.

Whoever will take the trouble of reading, in the history of this most meritorious and unhappy people, the unparalleled hardships with which they purchased those liberties we have now torn from them; and view the deplorable, the desperate situation, to which they are now reduced—however obdurate, however prejudiced he may be, he must think, at least, *one human tear may drop, and be forgiven*.

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