

passed, by which a duty of three pence *per gallon* was imposed upon all imported into the colonies.

Although a duty of six pence had formerly been enacted, it had never been collected; and consequently this new one, instead of a boon, as represented by English statesmen, was a very heavy burden, and created immense dissatisfaction, which was soon after increased by the Stamp Act, by which all printed or written public legal papers were made subject to a duty. The opposition to this act was so violent that it was soon after repealed; but not until it had widened the breach between the two countries to such an extent, that the restoration of good understanding between them seemed almost hopeless. But still the House of Commons continued to claim the right to bind America in every way, while the colonists as firmly contended that it was unjust that they should be taxed by a Parliament in which they were not represented.

With a view to conciliate them, other bills were passed, designed to increase certain branches of their trade, or to extend their privileges;—but all to no purpose;—the Sugar and Stamp Acts had completely destroyed all the good feelings existing at the peace of 1763, and entirely alienated the affections of a majority of the inhabitants.

At last the attempt on the part of Mr. Grenville (the originator of the Stamp Act.) to raise a trans-atlantic revenue, to compel the colonists to defray the expenses of a standing army, and to establish permanent salaries for the governors, exasperated them beyond all bounds. The duty on Tea was peculiarly obnoxious; and, after numerous declarations of rights by the people, and many dissolutions of assemblies by the governors, it was determined that no Tea should be received by any of the colonies; and many vessels laden with it were sent back to England without landing their cargo, while that landed by others was immediately destroyed.

Such a spirit of coercion was however evinced by the British Parliament, that they continued to bring in bills regulating and restraining the trade of the provinces. But now "the high born heir had grown to man's estate," and determined no