

FROM THE HALIFAX JOURNAL.

To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Province of Nova-Scotia.

GENTLEMEN,

THE very serious Representation made by the General Assembly, at their last Session, to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, relative to the Administration of Justice in the Supreme Court of the Province; the Proceedings of His Majesty's Council, in Consequence of those Representations, and the very oppressive, injurious and unmerited Treatment we have experienced, for having endeavored to bring forward a fair, open and impartial Inquiry into the Conduct of the Judges of that Court, agreeable to those Rules and Principles which form the Basis of our inestimable Constitution, are Matters of such public Notoriety, as to supersede the Necessity of a particular Recital.

In Justification of our Characters, as Witnesses, before the House of Assembly, we have already laid before you such a Train of Facts, as must convince every unprejudiced Mind, that we had no Object in View, by endeavoring to procure that Mode of Inquiry and Trial, which could only have afforded the Parties accused a legal Opportunity of reputably acquitting themselves, if innocent, but the Honor and Reputation of the Province.—This, for Reasons too obvious to mention, and which, he that runs may read, has been denied, and we in Consequence of that Denial, are sustaining every injury and Violence, that the Hand of Power can inflict, in a Country whose Inhabitants are too enlightened, not to express their Abhorrence and Detestation of those Measures, which, in their Effects, have a direct Tendency to destroy the Course of Justice.

In your Representations to the Governor you have manifested not only the high Sense you have of your dearest Rights, but that you are well apprized of the Value and Importance of having the Laws duly and regularly administered: And it gives us infinite Concern that Measures have not been taken to remove those Dissatisfactions which have too long prevailed in the Province from a well founded Apprehension of the irregular Administration of Justice in the Supreme Court.

As we are denied that Hearing in this Province, to which we have an unquestionable Claim, we are compelled to seek it in that Country where it will not be refused, and whose Justice controuls and pervades every Part of the British Empire.—Our Dependence upon and Subordination to Great-Britain, is the greatest Blessing that we or any People on Earth can enjoy; and, persuaded as we are, that it is the ardent Wish of every good Man that this Dependence and Subordination may never be lessened or impaired, it affords us a peculiar Satisfaction to have it in our Power to testify that no Part of the King's Dominions can boast of Subjects better disposed to render a ready and willing Obedience to the Laws and the Authority of Government, than the Inhabitants of Nova-Scotia. And although we may personally suffer a partial temporary Evil, from the Influence of a dangerous Combination, which has too long and too fatally governed almost every public Measure, we shall consider our Sufferings and Injuries amply compensated if we can in any Degree contribute to destroy that Influence and thereby restore Tranquility to the Province by introducing to the Seat of Justice Men of Abilities, Honor and public Virtue.

In the Packet we embark for Great-Britain, permit us therefore for a few Months to take our Leave of this Country, and publicly to acknowledge the grateful Sense we entertain of the very honorable Declarations and Assurances we have received from all Ranks and Descriptions of People of their entire Approbation of our Conduct: Such Testimonials from a generous Public demand our warmest Thanks, and we pledge ourselves never to desert a Cause which we know to be honorable, and in the Support of which we declare in the most serious Manner that we have not in any one Instance been actuated by partial Views nor private Resentment. The present and future Happiness of the Province is our only Wish and Aim, in the Pursuit of which, no Difficulty, whether from the mistaken Pride of Office, the Ambition of Power, or the Defection of Friends, shall ever discourage us.

With Sentiments of the truest Affection we sincerely pray, That the best of Blessings may ever attend the Inhabitants of the Province, and that every Attempt to mislead the People, or to obstruct the Course of Justice, may meet with a Punishment proportioned to its Baseness and Enormity.

We are with real and unfeigned Regard,

Gentlemen,

Your most faithful and obedient Servants,

J. STERNS.
W. TAYLOR.

Halifax, April 20th, 1788.