



CONSIDERATIONS, &c.

NO one knows how far every person in Britain may be interested in the event of the measures now carrying on with respect to our colonies in North-America. This seems to entitle any man on account of his own stake therein to speak his sentiments on the subject. The concern of the community gives to them likewise for their better security a claim, that every opinion may be offered for consideration. These things result from the nature of a free society, and particularly from the constitution of Great-Britain, where the people chuse one part of the legislative and where every man is supposed to have ultimately a share in the government of his country.

One point in dispute between us and the Americans is the right of taxing them here at home. This may be said to concern the power of our parliament. But so does every general proposition of right and wrong. When any thing is affirmed to be unjust, does it not conclude and is it not almost synonymous to the saying, that a law made to enforce it would be so too and beyond the proper power of a legislature? Vengeance and punishment do in the course of things assuredly pursue states and nations for their oppression and injustice; against the commission of which it is beyond question the right of every member of the community to warn the rest.

I say it with submission, but the power of the parliament is the right of the public. The particular members of that most respectable body are in the statutes enacted by them no more personally interested, than the rest of their countrymen. These pass through their hands, but being so passed, they
are