

It is alledged that we contribute nothing to the common defence; to this we answer, that the advantages which Great-Britain receives from the monopoly of our trade, far exceeds our proportion of the expence necessary for that purpose. But should these advantages be inadequate thereto, let the restrictions on our trade be removed, and we will cheerfully contribute such proportion when constitutionally required.

It is a fundamental principle of the British constitution, that every man should have at least a representative share in the formation of those laws by which he is bound. Were it otherwise, the regulation of our internal police by a British Parliament, who are, and ever will be unacquainted with our local circumstances, must be always inconvenient, and frequently oppressive, working our wrong, without yielding any possible advantage to you.

A plan of accommodation (as it has been absurdly called) has been proposed by your ministers to our respective assemblies. Were this proposal free from every other objection but that which arises from the time of the offer, it would not be unexceptionable. Can men deliberate with the bayonet at their breast? Can they treat with freedom while their towns are sacked; when daily instances of injustice and oppression, disturb the slower operations of reason?

If this proposal is really such as you should offer, and we accept, why was it delayed till the nation was put to useless expence, and we were reduced to our present melancholy situation?

If it holds forth nothing why was it proposed? Unless indeed to deceive you into a belief that we were unwilling to listen to any terms of accommodation: but what is submitted to our consideration? we contend for the disposal of our property; we are told that our demand is unreasonable, that our assemblies may indeed collect our money, but that they must at the same time offer, not what your exigencies or ours may require, but so much as shall be deemed sufficient to satisfy the desires of a minister, and enable him to provide for favourites and dependants. (A recurrence to your own treasury will convince you how little of the money already extorted from us has been applied to the relief of your burthens.) To suppose that we would thus grasp the shadow, and give up the substance, is adding insult to injuries.

We have nevertheless again presented an humble and dutiful petition to our Sovereign: and to remove every imputation of obduracy, have requested his Majesty to direct some mode,

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