

raise the supplies for the year with the greater facility. It was the first step in a sweeping and extensive scheme of taxation, which as it acknowledged no limits, might be carried on without end. The bold resistance made against this act, and the unanimity by which all the measures were encouraged to prevent its going into effect, particularly in Boston, undoubtedly led to its hasty repeal. It also met with a host of enemies, both in Parliament and in the country, who condemned it as subversive of one of the main pillars of constitutional liberty "to tax any subject, foreign or domestic, without his consent." Stamps, they maintained, could not be levied, and collected in America, by authority of Parliament, and the produce of them remitted to England, without infringing the most sacred rights of the colonists, who by their own assemblies could alone exercise legitimately the power of *internal* taxation.

But though the Ministry were compelled, with the view of allaying the irritations that had spread so widely, to abandon this claim, yet they adhered to the belief that the right of *External* taxation remained in full force,—and could be safely asserted by the Imperial Parliament. Under this conviction, a new Bill was introduced 1767, and passed apparently with general approbation, to impose certain duties of export on *tea*, glass, paper, and painters' colours, shipped from Great-Britain to the Colonies. In this way the Americans would be made to contribute towards the necessary supplies for the carrying on of the Government, and the only difference would lie in the mode of collecting the taxes from them. This device was hailed by the friends of the Administration as a happy deliverance from the former difficulties, and as being perfectly accordant with the genius of the constitution. It was a power which every free state could exercise over foreign trade, in selling the wares and merchandize, which were the products of its art and industry, at whatever price it might choose to demand. But