

American representatives in the British Parliament was made. Though Franklin was perhaps not the first, yet his proposal is the earliest extant. It was precipitated by the first fear of taxation at the hands of Parliament. In 1754 Mr. Shirley, the predecessor of Pownall, communicated to Franklin, who was in Boston, the profound secret of the project to tax the American Colonies by Act of Parliament. Franklin scented danger, and, in concluding a strong remonstrance against the injustice of the project, suggested representation as the only way out of the difficulty; "an adequate representation in Parliament would probably be acceptable to the Colonists, and would best unite the views and interests of the Empire."<sup>1</sup>

William  
Knox,  
1763.

After the Peace of Paris, William Knox drew up a plan and presented it, through Lord Grosvenor, to the Earl of Bute. Beside the admission of Ireland into the enjoyment of colonial trade and the creation of a colonial aristocracy, Knox advocated colonial representation in the House of Commons. He urged the Earl "to direct the stream of the great men's ambition to this kingdom, and attach them to its prosperity and the jurisdic-

<sup>1</sup> John Adams, *History of the Dispute*, 1754-1774.