

And he, on his Part, is bound by his Office to omit the *smaller* Interest of the County of *Middlesex*, or of the *Middlesex Electors*, when standing in Competition with the *greater* Interests of his Fellow Subjects in *America*, or other Places :—So that in short, tho' some few only, perhaps not a fortieth Part, of the Inhabitants of the whole Island, have legal Votes for Representatives, all in general, both within the Island, and without it, are *virtually* represented. That this is Fact and Law, that this ever was the Constitution of the *British* Empire, from the earliest Times down to the present Day, is such an apparent Truth, that it cannot be denied. Therefore in this Sense it is true, and in *no other*, that every Member of the common Wealth is supposed to give his previous Consent to the making of those Laws, which he is afterwards bound to obey, and to the imposing of those Taxes which he is obliged to pay. Indeed upon this Footing (viz. of virtual Representation in some Cases, and of actual Election in others) a free and well-poised Government can stand, and be supported; but it can be supported on no other :—Nay, the Government of the *Massachusetts-Bay* itself, whenever this Colony shall become independent of the Mother-Country, must then, as well as now, be supported on this very Principle; that is to say, on the very Principle against which they