

exercised in sending persons to rule over them, in one department and another, who were, perhaps, the deputies of some deputy, sent to spy out their liberty, to misrepresent their actions, and to prey upon them; men; whose behaviour, on many occasions, has caused the blood of those sons of liberty to recoil within them; men promoted to the highest seats of justice, some, to my knowledge, were glad, by going to foreign countries, to escape being brought to a bar of justice in their own.

*"They protested by your arms?"* They have nobly taken up arms, in your defence, have exerted their valour amidst their constant and laborious industry, for the defence of a country, whose frontiers, while drenched in blood, its interior parts have yielded all its little savings to your enlargement; and believe me, remember I this day told you so, That the same spirit which actuated that people, at first, will continue with them still; but prudence forbids me to explain myself any further. God knows, I do not at this time speak from motives of party heat. However superior to me, in general knowledge and experience, any one here may be, yet I claim to know more of America, having seen and been more conversant in that country. The people there are as truly loyal, I believe, as any subjects the King has; but a people jealous of their liberties, and who will vindicate them if they should be violated;—but the subject is delicate. I will say no more."

At the end of the session; the King said to the House of Commons, "I have seen, with the most perfect approbation, that you have employed this season of tranquillity in promoting those objects which I have recommended to your attention, and

in framing such regulations as may best inforce the just authority of the legislature, and, at the same time, secure and extend the commerce, and unite the interests of every part of my dominions."

The objections of the people of America to the stamp act, were of three kinds.

First, The powers given by the act to Vice-Admiralty courts in America, they said, would prove exceedingly grievous to the subject, by the distance of them; and more so, by depriving the subject of his trial by jury, which was allowed in England.

Secondly, Because the stamp duty would entirely drain the colonies of their specie.

Thirdly, Not being represented in the Parliament of Great Britain, that Parliament, they affirmed, had no right to tax them. Themselves only were the proper, and best judges of their ability; they claimed a right to the exercise of this judgment, and to the sole and exclusive right of imposing taxes upon themselves.

As soon as they were informed the stamp act had passed, the whole continent of America was thrown into a flame.

The province of Virginia took the lead. On the 29th of May, 1765; the House of Burgesses of Virginia, came to the following resolutions:

Whereas the Honourable House of Commons in England, have of late drawn into question, how far the General Assembly of this colony hath power to enact laws for laying taxes and imposing duties, payable by the people of this, his Majesty's most ancient colony; for settling and ascertaining the same to all future times, the House of Burgesses of this present General Assembly have