

28. According to this scale, which is *true*, every day there is a balance left to be accounted for, of one guinea. Now through what deep and dark mazes of iniquity, corruption and infamy, could these GREAT and GOOD men have tax'd the inhabitants of this town such an enormous sum? Is it because they employ the prisoners to their own private use and benefit, or is it done (as I think it is) that they may pay their own private debts out of the purses of the people? The magistrates say, the inhabitants of Halifax bear all their taxes patiently and without repining; and like saffron flourish the more they are trodden upon. But I now pledge myself by all that is sacred and dear to me here and hereafter, that when it is in my power, I will bring them to the public and patriotic bar of justice to my country, and there reduce them to their penetentials, for having thus coercively plundered the pockets of the laborious labourer. Nay, I will go further. I will so punish them, that they themselves shall acknowledge in their hours of tribulation, that tho' a *nolle prosequi* might have screened them from the bar of justice, yet the unknown hand of a minister of vengeance has hunted them out, behind the seven fold shield of MIGHTY patronage. I will go further and say to the magistrates in the name of the people of this province, that we are governed by a set of drivellers, from whom we can expect no remedy, but in POISON, no relief but in DEATH.

The next charge, I shall take into consideration, is their total neglect of the Poor House, a building of all others, that comes more particularly under their care, and which of all others is the least attended to by them. I am at a loss to account for this, as I conceive there may be something handsome made out of it. But perhaps the present commissioners may do all that is necessary in that way, which precludes the magistrates reaping any benefit from it. For the better government of this institution, I would recommend a COMPLETE change in the commissioners, and in