

“ Why it has been so generally received, as a maxim, in this country, that taxation and representation are inseparable, requires to be further explained. Men little acquainted with the Constitution, derive the opinion from their finding, that it is the indisputable right of the Commons, that all grants of subsidies and Parliamentary aids, should originate in their House. But though they first bestow these subsidies and aids, their grants, as has been already observed, have no effect, without the assent of the other two branches of the Legislature. The common reason given for this exclusive privilege is, that as the supplies are raised upon the body of the people, the people only ought to have the right of taxing themselves. This argument would have been conclusive, if the Commons taxed none but those by whose suffrages they obtain their seats in Parliament. But it has appeared, that more than seven millions of people, besides the Peers, who are in possession of so large a share

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the Province, are general over the whole Province, and not imposed solely on any particular district. The representatives of the other districts, are therefore virtual representatives of those corporations which send none, because they and their constituents are equally concerned in interest with the unrepresented parts of the Province, to keep the taxes low; and this is found so effectual a check against abuse, that one third of the corporations do not find it worth their while to send deputies. The same was the case anciently in England; for it is well known, that many boroughs declined sending Members to Parliament, in order to save the expence of paying their deputies.

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